DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 23 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
28039
1891-10.
JAN 21
RECEIVED.

Enclosure

No 1210.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 2nd, 1890.

Mr. Charles Denby.
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.
Camphor Monopoly in
Formosa and French Power.

Synopsis
Enclosing communication
on the above subject from
Foreign Office.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 22 1891
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
28539
JAN 17-18 01
RECEIVED.

Wu Ting Fang

No 1210.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 2nd, 1890.

Mr. Charles Denby.
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.
Camphor Monopoly in
Formosa and Tamsui Ports.

Synopsis
Enclosing communication
on the above subject from
Foreign Office.

No 1210. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 2nd, 1890.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Washington D.C.

Sir:—

In my despatch No 1205, of the 26th ultimo, I had the honor to enclose a copy of the communication of the Foreign Ministers to the Foreign office on the subject of the Canadian Monopoly in Formosa and Hawaii Island.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the Yamen's reply thereto.

1210

The Yamen simply states that the matter has been referred

to

To the Governor of Formosa.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Foreign Office to Mr. Denby, Nov 27th, 1890.

Enclosure 1 - with despatch
No 1210.

MR Foreign Office TO MR Dunby

No 17. Peking, Nov. 27th 1890.

Sir: Y. Ex:

Upon the 20th instant, the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a joint communication from His Excellency the American Minister and the Foreign Representatives at Peking, in the matter of the monopoly established in camphor, in Formosa, by the Chinese officials, which His Excellency and his Colleagues pointed out had been in existence ever since 1886, and they transmitted several notifications issued in 1886, 1887, and 1890, for their perusal, with the request that the rules of 1869, regulating the camphor trade be re-established.

The Prince and Ministers

have

have duly perused the representations made in the communication under acknowledgment, and have to say that they have attributed the honour of forming to give the question his consideration. On receipt of a reply the Prime and Ministers will inform His Excellency the American Minister of its nature.

A necessary Communication addressed to

His Excellency

Charles Bentley

&c, &c, &c,

Secretary to
Wells. Griffis Jan 28 1891
Jan 28 Jan
Mr Conger

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 21 1891
RECEIVED.

DIP
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 22 1891

No. 1211.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 9th, 1890.

Mr. Denby.
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.
Indent for stationery.

Legation of the United States
CHINA

Kindly send some bottom boards
and a good supply of litmus.

No 1211.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 9th, 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to request that you will kindly order a supply of stationery to be sent to this Legation. I would also like to have four flags - about 16 to 18 feet long.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 7 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1212

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 13. 1890.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 13 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Heck-Caslin Case

Synopsis.

Encloses translation of the Yamên's last paper, containing a refusal to open up the judgement at Ningpo.

No. 1212

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 13. 1890

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As the Foreign Office did not answer my communications relating to the McCarlin case, of which copies were enclosed to you in my despatches Nos. 1113 of May 5th 1890, and 1125 of July 26. 1890, I again addressed the Prince

and

and Ministers on the subject.
1/12, 12 I enclose, herewith, a
translation of their reply.
It will be seen that they
reiterate the same argu-
ments that they have
often presented heretofore.
[The proverbial ingenuity
of the Chinese diplomatist
is well illustrated in this
paper.] In adhering to
the pretense of the binding
force of the judgement in
this case, they cite a
quotation from one of my
papers in the Russell case,
wherein I stated that
"several years had elapsed
since the original judgement
was

was rendered, that the original judgement had never been attacked in any way" and that I could not consent at this late date that the proceedings should be set aside and new trial ordered. They argue that the same principle applies to the Ringgold case. They then seek to put upon me the first allegation of the binding effect of judgements, although I plainly shewed them that in the Western systems of jurisprudence there were motions for new trials, bills of Review, and other modes

of

of correcting errors in judicial proceedings. The order of facts was this: in the McCaslin case, the Gamin contended that the judgement was a finality; in the Russell case which arose after the McCaslin case, the Gamin sought to open the judgement; I quoted their words in the McCaslin case to the effect that they had decided that a judgement could not be opened. Now they seek to make it appear that I first advanced this theory in order that in the Russell case they

may

may still insist on the opening of the judgement. My opinion is that the McCaskin case will have to be reserved for final presentation when some financial settlement of mutual demands shall be an topic between the two countries - An examination of the proof submitted by the Consul will shew that placards had been put up prohibiting foreign boats from going through the opening where the accident happened. On this ground the Yamen contends that there exists

no

no liability to pay damages. On our side we rely on a wilful intention to commit the injury. But the Chinese do not understand these nice legal distinctions. Besides, two Taotais have heard the case, and a third is now at Ningpo. I was anxious to vindicate Mr. Pettus, who not being a lawyer by profession did the best he could. But I think this case will have to stand over until a time arrives when something may be done by mutual arrangement. The Yamên excuses its delay in answering

my

my despatches by the statement that I had said I proposed to call and orally discuss this case. Such was my intention, but in view of the pendency of other matters of vastly greater importance, that I was not prepared to discuss, I deemed it advisable to postpone for the present a personal interview.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure
Jamieson to the Minister

Foreign office to Mr. Denby.

No. 19. Peking, December 8. 1890.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 27th ulto. last the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from your Excellency in regard to the case of Louis McCaslin wherein you pointed out that in the communications (of 5th May 1890 and 4th August 1890) you set out the views expressed by the Hon. Secty. of State that the trial heretofore had of the case was incomplete and unsatisfactory because by a misunderstanding the foreign witnesses were not produced at the trial and

Their

their testimony was not taken; that a new trial should be had and you desired an early reply as to the determination the Prince and Ministers had come to in the premises, &c. With regard to this case, the Yamen has the honor to address your Excellency two communications, one dated the 14th August 1889, and the other dated the 4th of September 1889. wherein the views and position taken by the Prince and Ministers were clearly set forth.
If at the time the joint hearing of the case was held before the Taotai and Consul, the Consul objected to judgment being then rendered, he had

only

only to state his views in Court, and either have the foreign witnesses again summoned to appear, or have a time fixed for another joint investigation of the matter at issue: on the day of the hearing one word from the counsel would have prevented judgement being rendered. Had judgement was rendered on the evidence submitted and there were no objections raised from either side. Further there were four witnesses for the prosecution who appeared in Court; the only persons failing to appear were the foreign witnesses, and it

it

is clear and apparent that they realized that the case was of an unsatisfactory nature and they therefore avoided putting in an appearance in Court and for the purpose of assuming a wily and crafty position. The case has been decided for a long time and the request of Your Excellency that judgement be re-opened on account of a misapprehension of the Consul of the Taotai's views, is one that the Yamen finds difficult to comply with. There can be no harm in Your Excellency submitting the circumstances appertaining to this case,

as set forth in the various communications of the Yamen, for the consideration of the Hon. Secretary of State, which will enable him to see and understand for himself that China, in the action taken in the case under consideration, has not in the least acted unfairly or unjustly. The action taken accords with the representation made by Your Excellency in the case of Russell & Co. versus Chen Tsé Chi that several years had elapsed since the original judgement was rendered; that the original judgement had never been attacked in any

way

way and that you could not
consent that at this late date
that the proceedings should
be set aside and a new trial
ordered." Your Excellency
will clearly see that the same
principle applies to both cases.
The Yamên were about sending
a reply to Your Excellency's
communication of the 5th day,
but Your Excellency had
already left Peking. As to
the communication of the
4th August last, Your Excellency
stated in it that you intended
to discuss the question of the
McCaslin claim orally with
the Yamên, hence the Prince
and Ministers proposed to

wait

wait the oral discussion of
the matter with Your Ex.
These are the reasons why
no formal replies were sent
to the communications of
Y. Ex. Now, having received
the communication under
acknowledgement, as in duty
bound the Prince and
Ministers send this reply
for Y. Ex's perusal and beg
that you will transmit a
copy of it the Honorable
Secretary of State.
A necessary communication
addressed to
H. E. Charles Denby
" " "

DIPLOMATIC BU...
FEB 9 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 7 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1213

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 15. 1890.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
FEB 9 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Re. Russell & Co. Formosa claim.

Synopsis

No judgement rendered for
$36,462,63, Have asked
further information.

No. 1213

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 15. 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1163 of Septr. 20, last, I had the honor to inform you that in the matter of the Russell & Co. Formosa claim the Governor of Formosa had made a complete change of front. This change consisted in the fact that he denied that

any

any judgment had been rendered in Formosa in favor of the Russells for $36,462,63. During a long correspondence I had urged on the Yamen that such a judgment had been recovered. Mr. Brownell in many despatches had represented to me in the most positive manner that there had been a trial, a full and fair hearing, that the accounts between the defaulting Comprador and the Russells had been submitted by the Court to divers other compradores, that they had examined the whole case,

and

and had reported that the above amount was due, and that judgement had been rendered therefore. On receiving from Hi Yamen the communication of which a translation is set out in my said despatch 1163, I immediately sent a copy thereof to my [probably Mr. Cass] Cass and asked him in order to settle this most important question to send me the Chinese text of the judgement that he claimed had been rendered in favor of his firm - Russell & Co.

I am now in receipt of a voluminous despatch from Mr. Cass covering many

enclosures

enclosures, in English and Chinese, from Mr. Pelham H. Warren, H. B. M's. Consul in charge of American interests at Tainan. In Mr. Warren's report he uses this language addressed to Mr. Cass: "The Governor in his report to the Yamen, copy of which was enclosed in your despatch under acknowledgment, states that no judgement for the amount of $36,462.63 was rendered in the Court of the Magistrates of Taiwanfu. In this <u>His Excellency is correct</u> as the judgment given was not for that amount but as shewn in my notes

of

of the hearing. When, however, the arbitrating compradores had given in their report an amended claim was handed in by Messrs. Russell & Co., based on the said report and this amended claim appears to have been considered by Mr. Crowell as covered by the judgment of the Taiwan magistrate given on the 7th of June 1887."

In one of Mr. Warren's notes, taken at the trial, he says: "It was distinctly understood that the judgment of the court was in favor of the Plaintiffs on the first and third claims for the full

amounts

amounts sought to be recovered and on the second claim for whatever sum might be decided on by the arbitrating compradores. The first claim was one of Russell & Co., for $18,927.48; the third was one of D. M. Wright, for $5,671.81, and the second was a new claim of Russell & Co. for $15,193.79. But the arbitrating compradores did "not decide on any fixed sum to be paid to Messrs. Russell & Co." and "recommended that the parties should meet and discuss the points in dispute when the truth could easily be arrived at."

No

No judgment, therefore, could be based on the report of the arbitrators.

Mr. Carr does not send me any copy of any judgment - he sends only notes taken by Mr. Warren. I have written to him again asking for a copy of any judgment recovered by Russell & Co. against their defaulting comprador. If I can see a copy of it, I can determine whether it can be construed to embrace subsequent claims. If none can be found, I must change the basis of the claim as presented, and determine

on

on a new line of procedure.
In further explanation of
my action, I append, hereto,
1/213 a copy of my latest despatch
to Mr. Cass.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure
Minister to Mr. Cass.

Copy

No 113

Legation of the United States.

Pekin, Dec 15 1890

Francis Carr Esquire,

United States Consul

Amoy

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 136 of the 27th ult. The information contained therein must materially alter my conduct of the prosecution of the claim of Messrs. Russell & Co; which I have always been exceedingly anxious of bringing to a successful issue. As I presented this claim it was entirely based on the alleged fact that a judgement had been rendered by the Taiwan Magistrate June 6. 1887 in favor of Russell & Co for $36.462,63.

Hon

This fact had been reported to me many times by Mr. Crowell who stated also that the parties and the court had submitted the question of amounts to divers compradores and that they had found that the above amount was due, and judgement had been duly entered for that sum.
It appears from the enclosure signed by Mr. Warren that the compradores did not decide "upon any fixed sum which should be paid to Messrs. Russell & Co." and that they "recommended that the parties should meet and discuss the points in dispute when the truth could easily be arrived at." This is equivalent to no finding, and leaves the matter entirely open. Mr. Pelham says that the Governor is correct in denying that

a

a judgement was rendered for $36,462,63 and that Russell & Co. handed in "an amended bill" and this amended claim appears to have been considered by Mr. Crowell as covered by the judgement of the Taiwan magistrates given on the 7th day of June 1887."

It is difficult to see how an amended bill based on a report which fixed no amount as due could be incorporated in a prior judgement. And I am not disposed to deal in technicalities. If I could be furnished with a copy of the judgement of the 7th of June I could easily see whether it can be made to cover any subsequent findings.

Mr. Warren does not furnish

the

the document that I asked for. that is to say, a copy of the judgement. He sends copies of his own notes taken at the trial. He winds up with the statement that "It was distinctly understood that the judgement of the Court was in favor of the Plaintiffs, on the first and third claims for the full amounts sought to be recovered, and on the second claim for whatever sum might be decided on by the arbitrating compradores." As the compradores made no decision as to amounts the latter clause, of course, fails unless there be some thing more in the case than Mr. Warren's statement.

What Mr. Warren calls the "old debt," $ 18,927,48, is covered by this judgement, if such a judgement was actually rendered. I cannot now

determine

determine whether the new debt
$15,193.79 can be embraced
in the judgement. As my
presentation of this claim
was based entirely on the
allegation that all matters
between the parties had
been adjudicated and the
procedure had resulted in
a judgement for a stated
sum of money, and this
statement appears to be
erroneous, I must, of course,
change my mode of pre-
sentation of this claim. I
wish in recommencing to
act intelligently. I therefore
request you again to send
me a copy of the judgement
rendered in favor of Russell
& Co. if there be such judgement.
Such a copy nowhere appears
in the voluminous exhibits
attached to your despatch.
If in fact no entry in

writing

writing was made by the Magistrate and there is nothing to be shewn except Mr. Warren's notes, I must take the facts as I find them and try to do the best I can. I cannot determine what I will I will do until I definitely know whether any judgement at all was ever rendered and what the character of such judgement is and this I can only know by having a copy before me. I hope you will appreciate the fact of my reliance upon the existence of a judgement and will if possible relieve me from the embarrassment of being unable to produce one in answer to the Mandamus. In Mr. Warren's despatch of Octr. 31 last to you, he successfully disposes of the most of the statements of

the Governor. He shows, also, that on the 7th day of July 1887 he put in a claim for $36,442,63. But this was one month after the rendition of the judgement and nothing appears to have been done with it. Unless driven to it I do not wish to abandon the ground of a judgement and official negligence in collecting it, and therefore I still insist on the production of the record.

(Signed) Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 7 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 7 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1214.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 15th, 1890

Mr. Charles Denby.
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Confirming telegram of
13th instant re Emperor's
order granting audience
to Foreign Ministers.

No 1214.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 15th, 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.
Washington. D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of the 13th instant as follows:—

"Blaine
Washington
Have issued ordering Foreign Ministers Audience
Denby"

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 7 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 9 1891

No 1215.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
FEB 9 1891

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 15th, 1890.

Mr. Charles Denby.
to the
Secretary of State

Audience.
Audiences Question.

Despatch.

Enclosing Communication from Foreign Office Embodying term ordering Audience to be given to Foreign Ministers in February 1891.

No 1215. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 15th, 1890.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

Referring to my No: 1214 of this date, I have the honor to enclose a translation of the Imperial despatch of yesterday embodying the views of the Emperor on the Antiopium question.

This action was purely voluntary and spontaneous on the part of the Emperor.

During my stay in Peking the Foreign Ministers have taken

no

no step whatever to secure an audience. When the Emperor assumed the actual control of the Government two years ago there was some discussion of the matter, but the prevailing opinion was that it was best to wait and let China take the initiative in the granting of an audience. This policy has been justified by the event.

While I should not have waived this question without instructions from you, now that an audience is voluntarily tendered, I shall not hesitate to accept it unless directions, which I do not anticipate, should come to the contrary.

Yr

the question has been so much discussed by my predecessors that but few words from me are now required. I regard an audience of the representatives of foreign nations as tending to secure a recognition of the equality of those nations with China.

I think it will tend, also, to make the Chinese respect foreigners residing in China more than they now do. It is also an educational step in international law. Such an Education may in the course of time remove barriers which now exist

to free intercourse, and thereby the commerce of the world may be benefitted.

The Foreign Ministers will meet to day to discuss the action to be taken. I do not anticipate that any unbecoming conditions will be proposed as a part of the ceremony, but there may be some difficulty as to the locale and minor points of detail.

With the Experience of 1873 before the Ministers - see Foreign Relations 1873, page 143, and following - matters ought to go on smoothly.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Foreign Office to Mr. Denby, December 14th, 1890.

Enclosure 1 with despatch 1215.

No 20/90.

The Foreign Office
to Mr Denby

Peking, December 24th, 1890.

Your Excellency:—

The Prince and Ministers have the honour to inform Your Excellency that on the 12th instant the following decree was issued by Their Majesties the Emperor,

"Since China entered into Treaty relations with Foreign Powers, it has been a most existing custom for Diplomatic Representatives to pray their respects to the Chief of the Governments to which they are accredited by presenting their letter of credence!

The friendly relations between foreign powers and China

have

have for numerous years
born of a friendly and firm
character. The Foreign
Ministers resident in Peking
have all acted with a sincerity
of purpose to nourish and
cultivate good relations and
make an alliance of
friendly intercourse between
China and the countries
they represent. To us this
has been a source of deep
satisfaction and joy.
On the occasion of the
national events of uprising that occurred
in February and March
of last year, Her Majesty
the Empress by Edict instructed
the Yamen of Foreign affairs
to prepare a banquet to
be given to the diplomatic
Representatives. Thus the
representatives of the nations
beyond the seas were
assembled together in
friendly

friendly union in honor
of the happy occasion.
It is now about two
years since We assumed
reins of Government and
it is befitting and right
that the diplomatic representatives
of Foreign Countries residing
in Peking should have
an audience of Us. To
this we give our assent
the audience to be held
in like manner to that
had in the 12th year of
the reign of Tsung Chih. A
further provision is to
be made for the times for
holding Annual audiences.
This is manifestation of
our desire to be courteous
and polite to the Treaty Powers.
Therefore, let all the
diplomatic Representatives
of Foreign Countries - Ministers
and Chargé d'Affairs -

Tsai

han audience of Us in February.
The Yamen of Foreign affairs
is to memorialize Us requesting
Us to appoint a day. The
day following the audience
the Yamen is to prepare
a banquet to be given to
the Foreign Representatives.
In future an annual audience
and banquet will take
place in the first month,
Chinese Calendar.
Foreign Representatives who
may be appointed hereafter
will be received at the
annual audience. (lit: according
to the year).
On all national days of
rejoicing when foreigners
and Chinese participate
the Yamen is to memorialize
us and request that a
banquet be given in honor
of the event to the Foreign
Representatives. Thus requesting

the

the Courts further desire of cultivating friendly relations with Foreign Countries.

As to the details of the communication to be observed, let the Yamen first memorialize us on the subject.

Respect this."

Now besides having recently had a copy of the above decree prepared and forwarded to the Chinese Representatives abroad, requesting them to communicate the same to the Governments to which they are accredited, the Prince and Ministers, as in duty bound send this communication for Your Excellency's information.

A necessary communication addressed to

H. E. Sir Charles Dilke

M. P. &c. &c.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
FEB 9 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 7 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1216

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 16. 1890.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 9 1891

Subject

The Sikkim Question

Synopsis

Encloses a copy of the Convention between Great Britain and China fixing the boundary between Sikkim and Tibet, and for other purposes.

No. 1216

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 16. 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
enclose, herewith, a printed
copy of the Sikkim Conven-
tion between Great Britain
and China, which appears
in "The Chinese Times."
This Treaty asserts and
fixes the responsibility of China
for the acts of its vassal state.
It is quite safe to say that
this

this condition would never have been reached if the Indian Government had not sent an army corps to the confines of Tibet and had not vanquished the Tibetans in several engagements.
When the military conflict became hopeless China yielded.
It appears that this Convention is to be the basis of further important agreements as to trade.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One enclosure
Printed Tibetan Treaty.

The Sikkim Question.—Text of the Convention with China.

The treaty concluded in Calcutta on March 17 last between the Chinese Amban and the Indian Government [illegible] the settlement of the Sikkim question was [illegible] the Queen on August 17. The following is [illegible] of the arrangement:—

I.

The boundary of Sikkim [illegible] Tibet shall be the crest of the mountain [illegible] separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Machu and northwards into other [illegible] of Tibet. The line commences at Mount Gipmochi, on the Bhutan frontier, and follows the above-mentioned water-parting to the point where it meets Nipal territory.

II.

It is admitted that the British Government, whose protectorate over the Sikkim State is hereby recognized, has direct and exclusive control over the internal administration and foreign relations of that State, and, except through and with the permission of the British Government, neither the ruler of the State nor any of its officers shall have official relations of any kind, formal or informal, with any other country.

III.

The Government of Great Britain and Ireland and the Government of China engage reciprocally to respect the boundary as defined in Article I., and to prevent acts of aggression from their respective sides of the frontier.

IV.

The question of providing [illegible] facilities for trade across the Sikkim-Tibet frontier will hereafter be discussed, with a view [illegible] mutually satisfactory arrangement, by the high [illegible] Powers.

V.

The question of pasturage on the Sikkim side of the frontier is reserved for further examination and future adjustment.

VI.

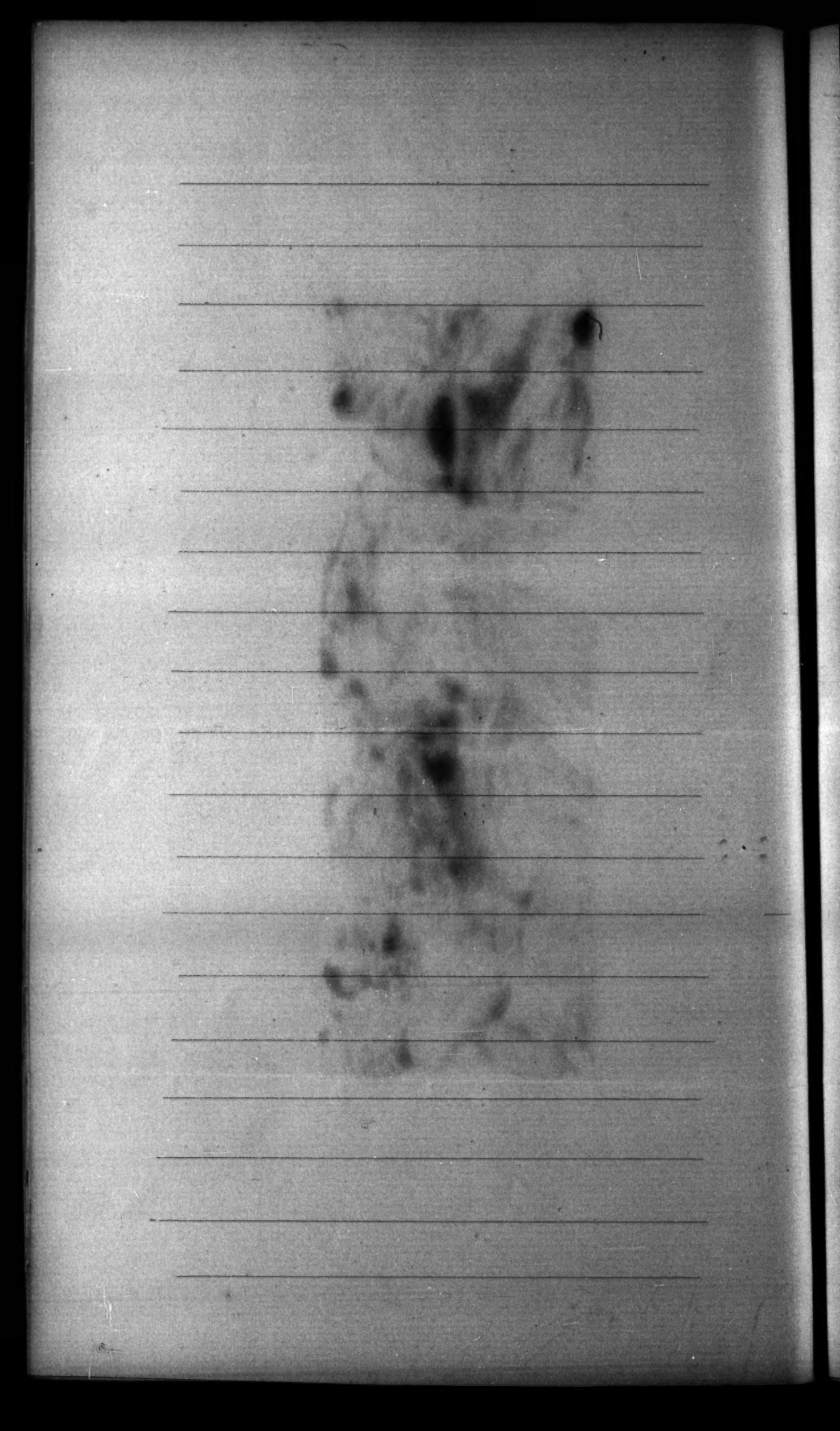
The high contracting [illegible] reserve for discussion and arrangement the method in which official communications between the British authorities in India and the authorities in Tibet shall be conducted.

VII.

Two joint commissioners shall, within six months from the ratification of this convention, be appointed, one by the British Government in India, the other by the Chinese Resident in Tibet. The said commissioners shall meet and discuss the questions which, by the last three preceding articles, have been reserved.

VIII.

The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratification shall be exchanged in London, as soon as possible after the date of the signature thereof.—*The Times.*



DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 10 1891
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 10 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1217 Ack'd & to file
Books sent to Treas. Dept. Cust's
Mr. Denby

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 16. 1890.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Forwards Customs
Medical Reports.

No. 1217

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 16. 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward you, under separate cover, two copies of "The Customs Medical Reports" for the year ending Sept. 30. 1888.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file.
FEB 20 1891

Ans 25 Feb

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1218

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 24. 1890.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 20 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The Audience

Synopsis

Encloses Protocol signed by the Foreign Ministers.

No 1218

Legation of the United States,
Peking. Dec. 24. 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington. D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose,
herewith, a copy of the
Protocol on the Audience
question signed the 15th inst.,
by the Foreign Representatives.
As the proceedings taken
here now will establish a
precedent for all future
action, I deem it wise to
follow the example of Mr. Low,

Set

set in 1873, and to send to you faithful copies of all the procedures taken either by the Yamên or the Ministers.

I have the honor to be, Sir.

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

One enclosure.

Copy of Protocol.

Copy.

Protocol

of the meeting of the Foreign Representatives at the German Legation on Monday, Decr. 15. 1890.

Present: the Representatives of the German Empire, the French Republic, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, and the United States.

The Representatives of Belgium, Great Britain, and Spain, were prevented by indisposition from attending: Mr. de Moïbanni being represented by Count de Lhoriate, 3d Secretary of the Spanish Legation.

It was agreed upon:

1) that the note of the Tsung-li

Yamen

Tsungli Yamên, dated Dec. 14, Communicating the Imperial edict of the 12th of the same month, referring to the reception by the Emperor of the foreign Representatives in the first month (Chinese) of the next year should be simply acknowledged by each Legation separately:

2) that Mr. von Brandt, as dean, should ask the Prince and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên for an interview in order to receive a communication in the name of all the foreign Representatives:

3) that at this interview,

Mr.

Mr. von Brandt should try to obtain some information about the intentions of the Yamen and should impress upon the latter the necessity of communicating and coming to an understanding with the foreign Representatives upon submitting their report and proposals on the Audience question to the Throne.

The results of this meeting have been communicated to the Representatives of Belgium and Great Britain.

(Signed) M. v Brandt

Charles Denby

John Walsham

(Signed) K. Otori

A. Pauza

J. H. Ferguson

R. Gil de Ubieta

C. Kleinenos

O. Ristelhueber

Charles Michel

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 10 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1218 bis

Mr. Denby

Legation of the United States,

Peking, Dec. 19. 1890. Rec'd 26 Feb

To Prof. E. Peers Scott's Smithsonian Inst. & Rel. to Volume for Dr. Newman. Feby 24, 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledges receipt of volume sent for Dr. J. Newman. Department's No. 561 not received.

No. 1218

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 19. 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 563 of Octr. 30, forwarding a volume from the Smithsonian Institute to Dr. J. Newman, of the Imperial Customs of China. I have also received the volume and transmitted it to

Me

the Inspector General to
be sent to Dr Newman.

I have not
received your despatch
No. 561. many & magnificent

Oct. 10

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ans. to present occasion for authorizing the expenses and trouble of journey to Chinanfu
FEB 20 1891

25 Feb

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1219

aaa

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 24. 1890.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 20 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

The Chinanfu Troubles.

Synopsis

The situation more favorable.
Will authority be granted
to go to Chinanfu?

No. 1219

Legation of the United States

Peking, Dec. 24. 1890

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a letter from Revd Gilbert Reid, of the 2d inst, wherein he says "In various interviews, during the last month, that I have had with the Deputies of foreign affairs, I have learned that the Taotai

was

was willing that we again purchase property, but I have failed to secure any true evidence thereof by letter direct." He further says that "the situation is more favorable." This Legation will be exceedingly gratified should the "Chinanfu troubles" be happily concluded. Knowing, however, the uncertainty of the issue, I beg leave to renew my enquiry as to whether you would in any event authorize me to go to Chinanfu and undertake by personal interviews with the local authorities to

settle

settle this long standing difficulty. I have not the least personal desire to make this trip, but there is scarcely any thing that I would refuse to do in order to end this controversy.

I have the honor to be, Sir.

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Respectfully to
Hon. Secretary of State
Feby 20. 91.

Ans'd 24 Feb

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1220.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 29th, 1890.

Hon. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Indent for blank forms.

No 1220.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 29th, 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to request the Department to send this Legation a supply of blank forms for rendering Quarterly Accounts and Returns.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Bruckhoper

Sept.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 24 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Decr. 31. 1890

Mr. Martin
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Salary and Loss by Exchange
accounts.

Dep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Dec. 31. 1890.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward, herewith, statements of my "Salary" and "Exchange Loss" accounts for quarter ending Dec. 31. 1890.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Howard Mathewson.

Enclosure No. 1. Salary account.
" " 2. Exchange Loss account.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack as read with interest. aab
FEB 20 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1221

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 1, 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

A Review of Important Events in 1890.

Synopsis

Railways. Famines. A Mint. The Si Kiang Dispute. Chungking. Deaths of the Tsiangs. Floods. Influenza. Missionary Conference. Audience. Telegraph Monopoly. Canton Claims.

No. 1221

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 1, 1892.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

A brief review of the prominent events that have occurred in China during the year that has just elapsed may not be unacceptable to you. An initial movement has been made to construct a railway to the North Eastern frontier of China.

Preliminary

Preliminary surveys have been made for a railway from Newchwang to Kirin. For the present the scheme is in abeyance. Still it is reasonably sure that such a line will be built in the near future. China is alarmed at the hurrying through of the railway across Siberia by Russia. She has been endeavoring for several months to secure a loan of Taels 30,000,000 a portion of which, it is understood, is to be devoted to the construction of railways. But the uncertainty of the future value of silver has caused

caused the taking off this loan to be postponed.
The Viceroy Chang Chi Tung has constructed large foundries at Wuchang opposite to Hankow. A mint is in successful operation at Canton, where silver dollars and subsidiary pieces are coined. Chemulpo has been opened to foreign trade.
The long standing Sikkim dispute has been settled.
During the year 1890, the celebrated Osing family suffered two deaths - that of the Marquis Osing and his Uncle Osing Kuo-ch'uan.
It has been a year of

great

great disasters. The Yellow River again flooded a great portion of Shantung. The Hun or Yun-ting River overflowed the plain of Chihli, causing great devastation and loss of life. Nearly all over China the Influenza prevailed causing many deaths. Piracy has broken out again in Chinese Waters. To foreigners the year will made memorable by the meeting of the great Missionary Conference at Shanghai. The greatest historical event of the year was the voluntary and spontaneous tender by the Emperor,

Emperor, of an audience to the foreign Ministers. Of diplomatic events worthy of being recorded should be mentioned the defeat of the scheme to grant a telegraphic monopoly to the Great Northern and Eastern Extension Companies, the settlement at Canton of the long standing claims of American citizens; and the favorable condition of affairs at Chinanfu. It must be said that the attitude of China towards the foreign powers has been more conciliatory in 1890 than in former years. It may appear paradoxical, but I doubt whether some of the great powers are at all anxious that China should

<u>admit</u>

admit them to a position of equality with herself. They seem to prefer that she should maintain her attitude of isolation. Exact equality brings with it reciprocity, and reciprocity means mutual concessions. A monopoly of trade now enjoyed may in the end suffer should China become, to all intents and purposes, a member of the family of nations. Some of my colleagues are not at all enthusiastic over the proposed audience, and would prefer, I think, to defeat it. But a few weeks will decide the question.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB20 1891
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED

No. 1222

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 5, 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The Theatre at Ningpo.

Synopsis.
The matter has been
settled.

No. 1222

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 5. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1189, of November 17. last, I had the honor to send to you a report of the condition of certain troubles at Ningpo, touching a Theatre operated there by Mr. McCarlin. & therein requested you to instruct the Consul at Ningpo, as

to

to his action in the premises. I have now received from the Consul information that he has substantially carried out my instructions and that the whole matter has been settled. The Consul says: "The Daotai has consented to the reopening of the Theatre without demanding any alterations or extra fee in the present license which expires March 16. 1891, on condition that in the event of a new license being applied for at the expiration of the

the present license I would agree to new rules being drawn up he would open the Theatre at once." The Consul agreed to this proposal. Orders were given to open the Theatre and the necessary proclamations were issued. No action, therefore, need be taken by the Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

C

Richthofen

No

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB20 1891

Separate.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 6th, 1890.

Wm. F. D. Sherburn
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Enclosing Accounts for Salary and Loss by Exchange for Quarter Ending December 31st, 1890.

Separate — Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 6th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir: —

I have the honor to hand you Enclosed a statement of my Salary Account, and Account for Loss by Exchange for the Quarter Ending December 31st 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

F. D. Sherkin

Interpreter of Legation.

Enclosures 1 and 2 —
Statements as above.

Mr Cleveland

No 1223.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 20 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 6th, 1891.

Mr. Denby.
to the
Secretary of State

Budget
Enclosing Salary Account
for Quarter Ending December
31st 1890.

No 1223. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 6th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a statement of my salary account for the quarter Ending December 31st 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED

DI[illegible]BUREAU
FEB20 1891

No. 1224

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 6, 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Rec'd Feb. 27 1891. Commissioner of Navigation

Subject
Railroads in China

Synopsis
The Linsi extension of the Kaiping Railroad has been completed eleven miles.

No. 1224.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 6. 1891

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the extension of the Kaiping Railway to near Linsi has been completed and opened to the public. The new line is eleven miles in length. There are two stations Wholiu and Kuya. The road has

nearly

nearly reached the new mines at Linsi.
It was constructed under the supervision of Mr. A. Cox, assisted by Mr. Jeme Dien-ryao, a graduate of Yale College. The importance of this line lies in the fact that it is the first link in the chain towards Shan-hai-Kuan. This city is situate at the end of the Great Wall on the Gulf of Leao-Tong. The road points in the direction of Mookden and the Sungari. It may, therefore, be considered the beginning

of

of the North Western line which China deems necessary to be built to counteract the effect of the Russian line through Siberia.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 20 1891
RECEIVED.

25 ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
FEB 24 1891

No. 1225

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 6. 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 24 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The World's Columbian
Exposition of 1893.

Synopsis.
Encloses clipping from
Chinese Times of
January 3. 1891.

No 1225

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 6. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
enclose a clipping from
the Chinese Times,
(Tientsin,) of the 3d Instant,
on the subject of the
"World's Exposition at
Chicago" Having secured
from the Tsung-li Yamen
a declaration that China
will participate in this

Fair,

Sir, I have not deemed it proper to approach the Government further as to details - though much urged to do so by Professor Hitchcock - until the official invitation of the President shall have been formally presented.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

One Enclosure

Clipping from Chinese Times.

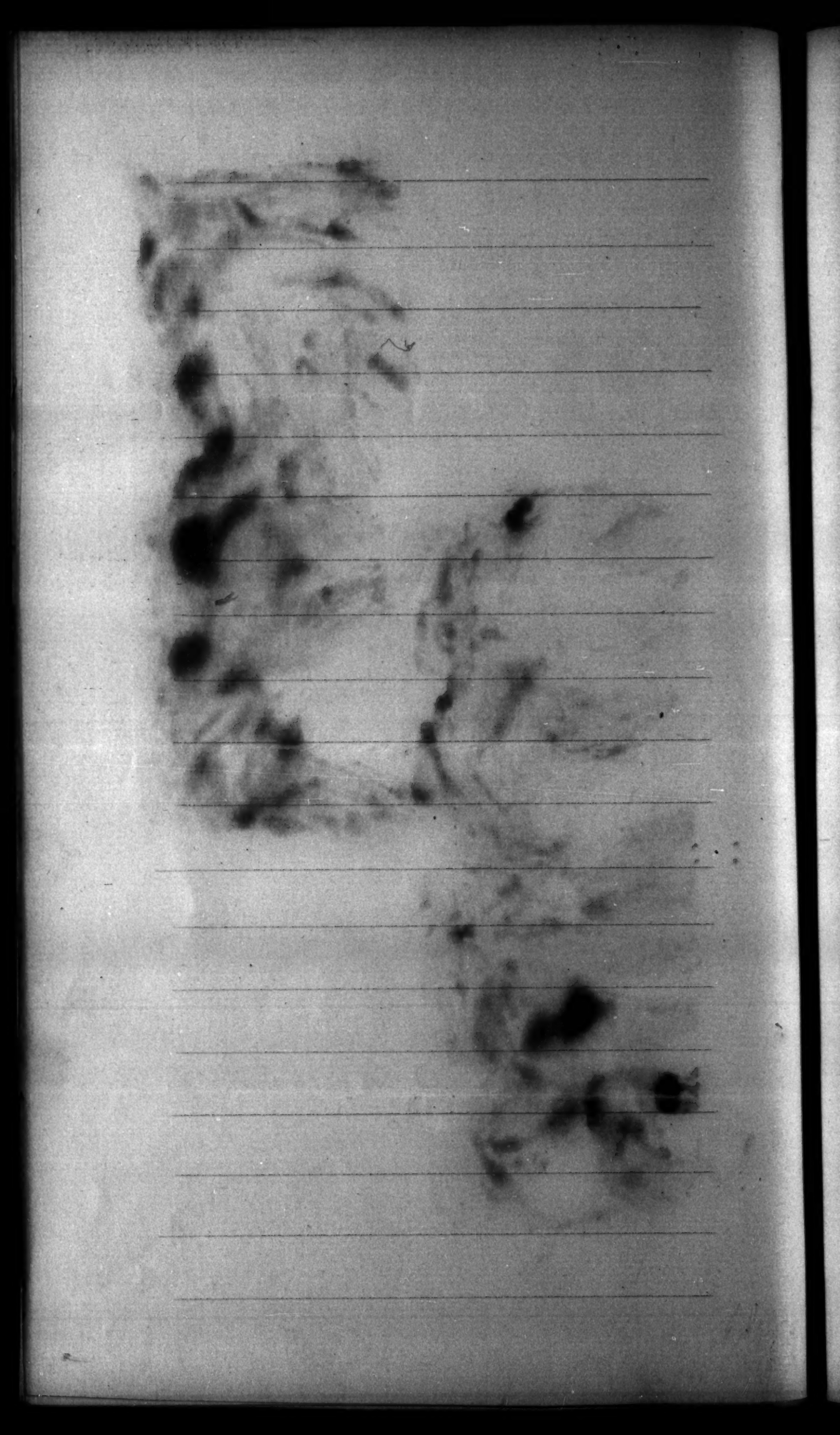
The World's Columbian Exposition of 189[illegible]

The United States Congress passed an act not long since providing for "an International Exposition of Arts, Industries, Manufactures, and the Products of the Soil, Mine, and Sea, in the city of Chicago." The Exposition is to be held in commemoration and celebration of the discovery of America by Columbus, four hundred years ago. The buildings are to be dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in the fall of 1892, but the Exposition will not open until May [illegible] the following year.

There can be no doubt that this will be the greatest Industrial Exposition the world has yet seen. Chicago is no longer a distinctively western city as in days past. Taking the population of the States as at present distributed, Chicago is just about in the centre. It is twenty-three hours from New York city, over one of the best appointed railroad lines in the country, passing through a variety of mountain and rural scenery, every mile of which possesses interest or beauty. According to the latest census it has a population considerably above a million, and is perhaps the greatest and most prosperous railroad centre in the world. The city [illegible] of Chicago have subscribed $10,000,[illegible] to secure the exposition, and $700,000 more to be expended in [illegible] the lake-front, which involves [illegible] up and reclaiming of 89 acres of land, [illegible] Lake Michigan. This will [illegible] for buildings and a beautiful park, along the lake shore. The total area of land available for the exposition is not far from 800 acres—much more than can be used, and about three times as much as was occupied by the recent Exposition in Paris. In addition to the local expenditures, the general government will erect a building for its own exhibits at a cost of $400,000, and over a million more is appropriated for other expenses, making a total exceeding $12,000,000.

It is supposed there will be from 40,000 to 50,000 exhibitors and the number of visitors is estimated in millions. The city is well provided with means of transportation, but to accommodate the great number of visitors at that time the Illinois Central Railroad Company, which will have a large share of the business, proposes to spend a million dollars. It is calculated that with all the means of reaching the Exposition, railroads, tram cars, cable roads, and lake steamers, 130,000 persons can be carried [illegible] every hour in the day.

The Chinese Government [illegible] represented at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876. Since then it seems to have been the policy of this government to decline invitations to exhibit abroad. The Tsung-li Yamên, however, has already considered the question of representation at Chicago; the Ministers have decided in favour of the Exposition and have so expressed themselves to the United States Minister. The Viceroy Li Hung-chang, with his usual activity and foresight, has also expressed himself in favour of a Chinese exhibit. A large and creditable display, such as China is sure to make, will not only attract great attention abroad, but it cannot fail to result in material benefit to her commerce and industry.



2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file.
See also #1230. aaa
MAR 10 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1226

Ans 12 Mar

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 10 1891

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 6. 1891

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

The death of Prince Chun, Father of the Emperor.

Synopsis

Encloses translation of Imperial Edict on the occasion. Remarks on the character of the Prince. An account of the mourning observances.

No. 1226

Legation of the United States,

Peking, January 6. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Ch'i Yeh, Seventh Son of the Emperor Tao Kuang and Father of the Emperor Kuang Hsü, died at Peking, the first day of this month at 1.50 o'clock A.M. His malady was liver complaint. The Prince was assiduously attended

attended in his last sickness by the Emperor and the Empress Dowager. The Prince was much esteemed by natives and by foreigners. He favored a progressive policy and acted harmoniously with Li Hung Chang in all his schemes of improvement.

1/1226 I enclose a translation of an edict issued by the Empress Dowager, which gives a full account of his life and services. Another edict provides for mourning observances. The Prince being the natural father of the Emperor, but the Emperor being the adopted

Son

Son of Tung chi, the
funeral observances will
not be the same as if
the Emperor's Father had
himself been Emperor.
The Emperor goes into
ordinary mourning for
one year. He wears full
(white) mourning for eleven
days, during which period
he will not appear at the
large Audience Halls. The
posthumous title of "Virtuous"
is accorded to the Prince.
In memorials presented to
the Throne when the name
of the Prince is mentioned
the characters are to be
doubly elevated.

The

The annual entertainments to the members of the Imperial Clan and the Princes are to be omitted at the new year. But, the Mongol Princes are to be received as usual.

In paying his respects to the Empress Dowager and in attending to business at Court and at official audiences, the Emperor will wear the Court Dress, but, on retiring, will again assume mourning. The Emperor will go in person to the great altars and temples but will depute officials,

as

as usual, to represent him on other ceremonial occasions of a religious nature. Nothing is said about a postponement of the audience. It is therefore supposed that it will take place as originally ordered in February.

The New Year calls of the high officials on the Ministers were postponed on account of the death of the Prince and no time has yet been fixed for making them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One Enclosure

Imperial Edict.

Edict issued by the Empress having relation to the death of Prince Chun.

We have received her Majesty's Edict as follows:-

Prince Chun (the Father of the Emperor) was one who shone by the purity and integrity of his character, no less than by the sedulous devotion of his intellect to the interests of the State. Loyal and Stainless, far seeing and straightforward, he was at once thorough in the earnestness that actuated his conduct

and

and inspired the attainments of unselfish wisdom.
When young the Emperor
Tao Kuang evinced a feeling
of warm affection toward
him and the Imperial
favors bestowed upon him
were many. The Emperor
Hsien Feng out of kind
and affectionate regard
for his younger brother
bestowed upon him the
title of Prince of the
Second order. In the reign
of Tung Chih the deceased
was elevated to the rank
of Prince of the First Order.
During the successive years
in the discharge of his

official

official duties as Minister of the presence, and other offices, he applied his mind reverently to the performance of the trust imposed on him. On the succession of the Emperor Kuang Hsu, he commanded him by special edict to accept the hereditary title of Prince for ever. He issued our comforting commands again and again and finally with bitter tears he accepted the honor conferred upon him. For succeeding years in all important matters of state his views and decisions were always

in the right direction
looking to the policy of
the Government and the
interests of the people at
large. As commander in
Chief of the Peking Field
Force and in the establish-
ment of the Board of Admir-
alty the plans and schemes
advanced by him were
comprehensive and he
proved himself fully
equal to the duties of
these offices and thus showed
that he was in the highest
degree a pillar of the state.
In 1877 he went to the
Seaports (Tientsin and Chefoo)
to review the naval forces,

and

and in this he again proved himself fully equal to understand the scope of his position and to direct the duties thereof, without minding the toil and labor devolving upon him. The favors bestowed upon him by the Government at various times have not been adequate in comparison to the meritorious services he had rendered the State. But the Prince was a man of a modest and unassuming disposition exceedingly humble and timid. By special edict we conferred upon him

the

the privilege of riding in a yellow chair, a privilege he never availed himself of. As the present residence given by the Government to the Prince was the birth place of the Emperor, he recently - following the precedent in the case of the Gung Ho Kung requested that it be surrendered to the Government. He was in absolute truth a reverential, devout, and loyal servant of the State. His life for years was like that of a day. From ancient times

up.

up to the present there
was seldom a virtuous
Prince that could be com-
pared with him. The
Prince formerly was of
good constitution and
robust health. Last year
he was taken ill with
Liver complaint and in
company with the Emperor
we paid him several
visits of enquiry after
his health. He afterwards
recovered his health.
During the summer he
was again taken ill
caused by the heat and
damp weather, which
resulted in a relapse of
the

the former disease. We
again in company with
the Emperor visited the
Prince on several occasions
Of late we heard that
his illness had increased
which was a source of
deep regret and affliction
to us both day and night.
Suddenly his condition
became worse and worse
and medecine proved of
no effect whatever. On the
morning of the 1st of Jany.
at about 2 o'clock, he
passed away. His death
has overwhelmed us with
the profoundest sorrow.
Let a Solo pall be awarded

for

for his obsequies. On the day of his demise we hurried to his Palace and offered a libation over the remains. The Emperor in solemn mourning made a prostration before the remains.

We command that Tuhun, Chief Comptroller of the Imperial Household, Kun-Hang, President of the Board of Rites, Kai Ching, President of the Board of Works be appointed to attend to the burial of the deceased and whatever arrangements are necessary are to be made by the officials.

Let

Let Tsai Feng, an Imperial Duke of the second degree, a son of deceased, be raised from this day to the hereditary rank of Prince. This we ordain in manifestation of the earnestness with which we cherish the memory of our virtuous relative who has departed this life.

January 1. 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 10 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1891
RECEIVED.

12 encl

No. 1227

Legation of the United States,

Peking January 8 1891.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. quote Mr. Denby's telegram and send copy of Chinese note of March 9 and our reply
MAR 10 1891

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State.

mar 6 - "Andrea has resigned yesterday" Denby

Subject

The Audience Question

Synopsis.

Reports withdrawal of Mr. von Brandt and the appointment of Mr. Denby to conduct negotiations with the Tsungli Yamên.

No. 1227

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 8. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In pursuance of my intention to preserve for future use a complete record of the steps taken by the Yamên and the Ministers touching the audience question, I have now the honor to enclose a copy of a memo. sent by Mr. von Brandt to

his

his colleagues the 31st ult.
Mr. von Brandt therein
states that as the Prince
and Ministers refused to
call on him to discuss
the Audience question, and
as his health continues
bad, he is compelled to
request his colleagues
to select some other person
to conduct the negotiations
with the Yamên. After the
receipt of this notification
I first wrote to Mr. von
Brandt expressing my
regret at the determination
that he had arrived at
and offering to delay the
calling of a meeting of

my

my Colleagues for some days, if he thought that his health might be so far restored as to enable him to take part in further proceedings. He replied that he certainly would not be able to go to the Yamen on this business for a long time. I therefore invited my Colleagues to meet at this Legation, Tuesday January 6. to determine what ought to be done. All, with the exception of the Japanese Minister, who is sick with the Influenza, promptly consented to attend. I then, Monday the 5th instant, called on Mr. von Brandt and had

a

a full discussion with him on the whole subject I found with great pleasure that he really was in favor of an audience. He was hurt that the Prince and Ministers had refused to call on him, but his health is unquestionably too delicate to enable him to assume the duty of conducting the negotiations with the Yamen. In our conference, we cordially agreed on several points which I will briefly specify.

1st. It should be insisted that new ministers arriving here should

be

be received in audience shortly after their arrival, and not be compelled to wait until the next year as the Imperial Decree seems to intend.

2nd The letters of credence should be carried through the central gate and not one of the side gates. If it can be done, the ministers should also go through the central gate, but this can be waived.

3rd Uniforms and swords, except

except in my case
to be worn.

4th No particular point
should be made over
the selection of an
outer gate by which
to enter the Palace
grounds.

5th The Hall in which the
Ministers were received
in 1873, should not be
used again, because
an impression then
went out that this
Hall was generally used
to receive the represent-
atives of subject nations.
But the selection of
another Hall should

be

be left to the Emperor.

6th Oral and not written communications with the Yamên because the Chinese do not like to recede from written statements.

7th Each Minister should be received separately with his staff. This course accentuates the recognition of the equality of China with the Foreign Powers. Letters of Credence should be presented with a short address. A translation should previously be sent to the Yamên.

8th

8th. If there cannot be a separate audience for each Minister, then the ministers having Letters of credence may present them all together.

9th. After the presentation of Letters of Credence then all the Ministers and the Chargés d'affaires - who have no Letters of Credence - could all go together to the presence of the Emperor.

10th. The Letters of Credence should be placed on a table near the Emperor.

11th.

11th. Ministers should not be kept unduly waiting.

12th. If possible, Ministers should go in chairs near to the Hall of Audience, and not be compelled to walk from the outer gates.

13th. The staffs of the Ministers should be present at the audience.

Possibly you may consider some of the above suggestions as trivial. But it must be remembered that in dealing with China, forms embody

principles

principles. It should be
strenuously seen to that
nothing of a character
derogatory to the Repre-
sentatives of the Foreign
Powers is permitted to occur.
That Cor may be compelled
to recede from some of
the above propositions is
likely, but there is no
harm in demanding them
at the beginning.
The 6th day of January,
the Representatives of
Great Britain and Ireland,
Italy, Spain, Russia, France,
Belgium, and myself met
at the American Legation.
The result of our interview

is embodied in a Protocol which was prepared by me and was signed by all the Ministers. Their Excellencies, Messrs. von Arandt and Otori were furnished copies of this Protocol, a copy whereof is herewith enclosed. It will be seen that I have been designated to open the negotiations and that my powers are very limited.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Two

Two Inclosures

Enclosure No. 1

Memo. from Mr. von Brandt.

" No. 2.

Protocal of Ministers.

Memo.

Mr. von Brandt being still indisposed and not knowing when he will be able to leave the house and the Prince and Ministers of the Yamên having declined to call upon him as requested to do under the given circumstances stating at the same time that as happily no report had as yet been addressed to the Throne on the audience question the sending in of such a report might be postponed until the health of Mr. von Brandt allowed him to call upon the Yamên.

Mr.

Mr. von Brandt has the honor to request his Col. leagues kindly to choose some other person among their number to conduct the negotiations with the Yamên, he being utterly unable to fix any time when he would be able to do so.

Peking, Decr. 31. 1891.

Copy.

Colonel Denby has the honor to present his compliments to his Colleagues and to circulate for their information and approval a memorandum of the action taken by the members of the Diplomatic Body who were present at the American ~~Legation~~ Legation, Tuesday January 6. 1891.

Col. Denby avails himself of this opportunity to renew to his Colleagues the assurance of his highest consideration.

Peking. January 7. 1891.

H. E. Monsieur von Brandt - - -

Sir John Walsham "

Monsieur Story "

H. E. M. le Chevalier Panza ^ ^
" Monsieur Dergurov "
Monsieur de Miribari ^ ^ ^
" Meimenoy :
" Rietschuster "
" Michel "

Memorandum of a conference held at the American Legation, Tuesday Janu 6. 1896 at which were present the Ministers of Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, and the United States, and the Chargé d'affaires of Spain, Russia, France, and Belgium. It was agreed that owing to the sickness of H. E. Monsieur von Brandt; which was

much

much regretted, Colonel
Denby should be deputed
to confer with the Tsung-
li Yamên on certain
matters touching the question
of audience. It was agreed
that such conference should
not be sought until the
term of strict mourning
prescribed by Imperial decree
on account of the death of
Prince Chun had expired.
Colonel Denby was directed
by his colleagues to enquire
of the Yamên what construction
the Prince and Ministers
put on the Imperial decree
of the 12th ult. as to whether
new Ministers hereafter arriving
at

at Peking were to be received in audience by the Emperor within a reasonable time after their arrival, or were to wait until the succeeding Chinese New Year before being so received. He was directed also, to state to the Tsungli Yamên that some of the Representatives of the Foreign Powers now at Peking were the possessors of Letters of Credence from their Governments and others were not, and to enquire what arrangement the Yamên proposed to make as affecting the Audience of these two classes of Representatives. He was directed, also,

to

to ascertain what character the Yamên attached to the audience as described in the Imperial Decree, that is to say whether it was considered as an audience pure and simple, or as a New Year's reception of the Diplomatic Body by the Emperor.
He was to enquire, also, where the proposed audience was to be held. Colonel Denby was not authorized by his Colleagues to enter on any discussions with the Yamên as to any of the points involved in the proposed audience but he was simply to acquire what information he could as

to

to the ideas and intentions of the Tsungli Yamên, and to report the same to his Colleagues at another meeting of the Diplomatic Body.

(Hill

Evans to state Dept

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 9 1891

No 1228.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 9th, 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Enclosing Return of Passports for quarter Ending December 31st, 1890.

No 1228. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 9th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a Statement of Passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ending the 31st of December 1890.

1228.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1—

Statement as above.

No 1228. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking January 9th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed a Statement of Passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ending the 31st of December 1890.

1228.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1—

Statement as above.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack and affirm, awaiting further advices
MAR 10 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1891
RECEIVED.

dec 7
12 mar

No. 1229

Legation of the ~~United~~ States,

Peking, Janu. 13. 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 10 1891

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Riot at Chiuing Chow

Synopsis

Protection demanded from the Foreign Office.

No. 1229

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Jany 13. 1891

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I received on Sunday, the 11th inst, a telegram from Chinning Chow signed "Hunter" as follows: "Riot in Tsining today. Officials fail to protect." I immediately applied to the Foreign Office to require by telegraph the officials

to

to protect Americans.
I also wired to Mr. Hunter
that I had demanded
protection. As there are
some German Catholics
in that locality I informed
the German Minister of
the contents of my telegram.
He in turn asked the
Yamen to send orders by
telegraph to the local
officials to protect his
compatriots. Since receiving
the telegram I have heard
nothing. Chiming Chow is
in Shantung not very far
from Chinanfu. That
whole section of country
is noted for its hostility

to

to foreigners, and the greatest prudence is demanded from Missionaries who undertake to effect a permanent settlement there. I will communicate information as it arrives.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack'd with #1226.
MAR 10 1891
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAR 9 1891
RECEIVED.
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 10 1891

No. 1230.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Jany. 14 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The treatment of the memory of the Emperors Father.

Synopsis
Incloses copy of edict prescribing the rules to be followed.

No. 1230

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Janry. 14. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The observances to be had on the death of Prince Chün involve an important point of Chinese polity. During the life time of the Emperor's Father, his own wisdom avoided in a great degree the conflict between the respect which law and custom demand from the son

to

to the Father, and the absolute submission and obedience of the subject to the Sovereign. He absolutely disclaimed all honors and he prayed that this might be publicly established as the rule for the future — that is to say, that no honors should be bestowed by the Emperor on his own Father. But on the death of the Father, the question arose how should the Emperor treat his memory. Custom demands that the son shall worship the tablet of the Father. On the other hand the Emperor cannot worship

the

the tablet of an inferior.
I enclose, herewith, an
edict prepared by the
Empress-Dowager which
settles the question of funeral
rites and subsequent treat-
ment of the memory of the
Father by his Imperial
Son. Authority is found in
a book prepared by the
Emperor Ch'ien-lung to the
effect that "the Emperor's
Father after death is still
to be held his Father, that
his palace is to be converted
into a temple, and himself
worshipped as a son of
Heaven." This is consistent
does, with the teachings

of

of Confucius that "if the Father is a scholar but the son of a high official the burial ceremonies of the Father shall be according to his rank as scholar, but the after rites according to the rank of the son."
The burial rites of Prince Chün will, therefore, be regulated according to his own rank, but all subsequent ceremonials by the Emperor will be the same as if he and his Father were of equal rank. The Peking Gazette contains many notices as

to

to the ceremonials to be observed. It is noticeable that the Foreign office has not formally notified the Foreign Representatives of the death of Prince Chün. The Foreign Ministers would have willingly shown some respect to his memory if they had been notified of his death, and would on invitation have participated in the funeral ceremonies. But they have been completely ignored. This is, perhaps, the surest way to avoid complications.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

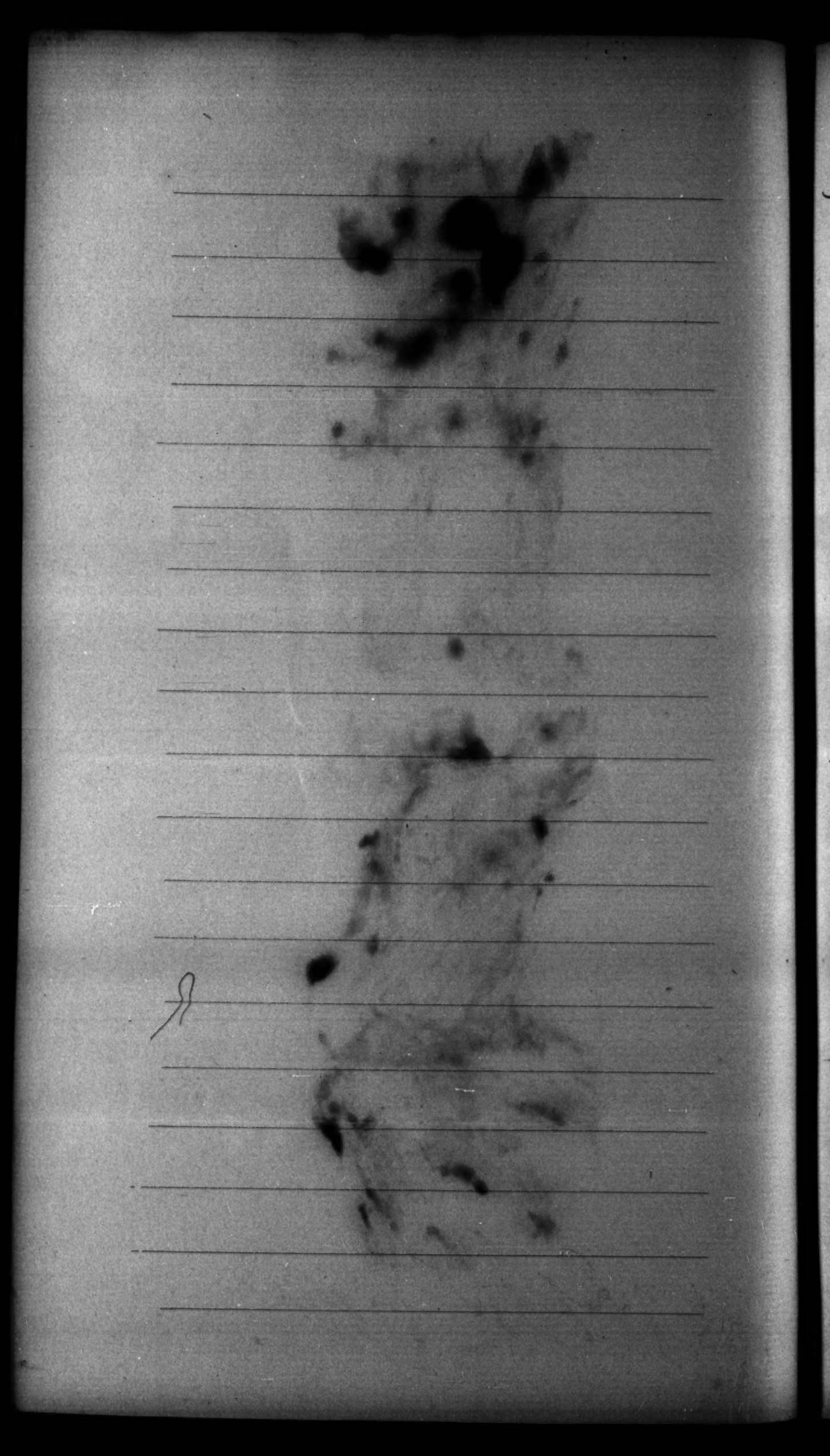
Charles Denby

One enclosure

Imperial Edict

ETIQUETTE TO BE OBSERVED BETWEEN ... FATHER ... SON.

By ... Dowager we publish ... EDICT. ... times the Emperor has ... is ... official duty ... with ordinary ... and in its ... the ... nce of all ... may understand and accept it ... In the *Pu Yi Pien*, ... Ch'ien-lung, a work in which ... are absolutely laid down ... that "the Emperor's father, after death, ... to be held as father, that his palace is to be converted into a temple, and himself worshipped as a Son of Heaven." Consistent with this is the law [from Confucius] that "if the father is a scholar but the son a high official, the burial ceremonies of the father shall be according to his rank as a scholar, but the after rates according to the rank of the son." The same views of the honour due to parents having been held by Us, we have no regrets either as to Our past public justice or private favour. Ch'ien-lung's book was clear as the sun, and posterity may take it as a guide. It reaches to the very core of the subject, and harmonizes the laws of Heaven with the nature of man. The present Emperor has given Hsien Fêng an heir and has taken over the Government. In the 1st year of Kuang Hsü, I Huan, Prince of Ch'un, in order to anticipate and prevent malevolent remarks, presented a secret memorial to Us in which he said that from ancient times of all the cases of indirect accession and advancement of parents, the model one was that of Hsiao Tsung, an Emperor of the Sung Dynasty, who rightly left his father's rank of Prince of Hsui unchanged; and ... that anyone who referred to the ... Emperors Chih P'ing and Chia Ching (who advanced their fathers), should be looked upon with suspicion as a traitorous and vicious-minded villain, and should be dismissed from office. In the above expression of his opinions the Prince was upright and open as the day, and his opinions rank with those of Ch'ien Lung. ... in his truthfulness of heart could he be surpassed by any of the Ministers of old. Last year on the 2nd day of the 2nd moon, on account of a memorial by Wu Ta-ch'êng, the Empress Dowager resolved to publish Prince Ch'un's secret memorial, that officials and people might ... that her Dynasty treads a still better road than those of old did, and that they might realize Prince Ch'un's modest character. But though so good a man Heaven did not grant him years, and he has glided away for ever! We are in deep grief for him ... sorrow for his death. Prince Ch'un is to be ... the deceased father of the Emperor (*Huang-shi fên shêng Kʻao*). All the burial rites must be in accordance with the ... of ancestral worship, and the ... ditions must be carefully framed to ... Emperor's desire to combine official ... with filial affection, and the Seventh Prince's own fixed wish that ... out for his own non-advancement. The Ministers of the ... Presence, the Cabinet Ministers, Wêng T'ung-ho, and Sun Chia-nai, are deputed to ... with the Board of Rites to discuss ... satisfactorily and report to us [on the measures to be taken]. Respect this!



DIPLOMATIC BUREAU,
MAR 17 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 17 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1231.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 15. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Sea culture

Synopsis
Encloses instructions by
Mr. Pinchon.

(Report file for Jan)

No. 1231.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Janry. 15. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Mr. E. Pinches, of whom I made mention in my despatch No 1134 of July 30, last, has arrived at Peking. His object is to secure the consent of the Chinese Government to his scheme of establishing a model

Dairy farm.

Tea farm. He has secured the approval and coöpera-tion of the Inspector General of Customs and it is probable that he will be succesful in his mission.

1/1231 I enclose a clipping from the North China News wherein Mr. Pincher gives some account of his plans and methods. I have lately received from the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angelos, California, a request to forward some tea seed for the purpose of beginning the culture of tea near that

City.

city. I instructed Consul Andrews at Hankow to send on some tea seed. The instructions contained in the enclosure will be beneficial to the cultivators of the plant.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIF

MAR 17 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 17 1891
RECEIVED.

To Press 18 March

No. 1232

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 15. 1891.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Give to press -
Ack. by letter and File
MAR 17 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Coal mining in Hupeh and contiguous Provinces.

Synopsis

The Viceroy enjoins on every body to open coal mines where it is practicable to do so, and promises to furnish a market for all coal produced in native mines

---

No. 1232.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 15. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The very energetic measures taken by the Viceroy Chang Chi Tung in Hupeh for the development of mines are worthy of mention. He has ordered iron foundries to be established at Wuchang and that none but native coal

be

be used. He has inspected various coal fields in Hunan, Hupeh, and Szechuen and has found excellent qualities of both hard and soft coal. It is known to you that for centuries the working of coal mines has been [considered detrimental to the principles of Fungshui, and has, therefore, been] discouraged. The Viceroy [has demonstrated again that Chinese officials will not permit this superstition to stand in the way of any progressive movement that they favor.] In a late proclamation [he] shows that the foundries

at

at Wuchang consume daily
600.000 catties of coal, and
the Cotton Mill and
arsenal as much more.
Besides vast quantities are
needed for the Government
gun boats, and the China
Merchants' Navigation
Company. The amount of
coal produced by native
methods is entirely insuf-
ficient for these uses.
He exhorts the people to
open and work coal
mines every where. They
can keep on with the
old shafts or open new ones.
They can work each person
on his own account or they

can

can organize companies. They are told to procure foreign pumps and donkey engines and to work them themselves without the assistance of foreign engineers. The increased production, he says, will augment the number of diggers, carriers, boatmen and boats, and thus the poor will gain a living. The Viceroy promises that he will find a market for all the coal produced, no matter what the quantity may be, and he will remove the products of all mines no matter in what province located.

located. Every facility will be afforded to coal dealers. He concludes "Let coal field owners, country people, and all who desire, raise funds and start coal mining." This proclamation is an immense step forward. It is a complete revolution in the manner of treating and controlling coal mines and mining and as railroads will be necessary to bring the coal from the interior it is a presage of their construction.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enc. 2 to No 1233

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 27 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1233.

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 20th, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to Mr.
Secretary of State

Subject
The Prevention of Collisions
at Sea.

Synopsis
Minister encloses the reply
of the Foreign Office to his
despatch transmitting the act
of Congress entitled "An act
to adopt regulations to prevent
collisions at Sea." The subject has been referred
to certain high officials.

No 1233.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 20th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G Blaine
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith, a translation of a communication from the Foreign Office relating to "Collisions at Sea".

This is an answer to communications from this Legation of October 27th and November 27th 1890 respectively covering the transmission of a certified copy of an act entitled "An act to adopt regulations for preventing

preventing collisions at Sea"
approved August 19th 1890 and
an act supplementary thereto.
As directed by you in your
despatch No 550, of September
12th 1890, I requested in my
communication to the Foreign
Office that I might receive
intelligence as early as may
be practicable, of the disposition
that might be made by China
concerning this law. The
Yamen in the enclosed
communication begin by
referring to the terms of the
original invitation to send delegates
to the Marine Conference.
This invitation was contained
in the Department's despatch

No 340

No 340, of July 20th, 1888 - a translation thereof was sent to the Yamen. They quote from that paper the last clause but one providing that no questions relating to the regulation of liquor would be taken up and that each country would have but one vote. They proceed to state that they have received a report of the proceedings of the Conference. It is proper to state here that this Legation has not received the copies of the Report of the Conference, which are probably detained in Shanghai until navigation shall open in the spring.

The

The Yamen comments on divers of the rules and recommendations. As I have not the report before me I cannot closely follow the remarks made touching these rules.

The conclusion arrived at is that the whole matter shall be referred to certain high officials to report thereon. This meant, of course, a considerable delay. It is true, as the Yamen states, that the shipping interests of China, except along her own coast, are not extensive. But her people are largely interested in steamers which ply between

for

her own ports. When the rules embodied in the act mentioned shall have been generally adopted by the Western nations whose ships now sail in great numbers in Chinese waters there can be little doubt that China will also adopt these rules.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.
Foreign office to Mr. Denby. January 15/91.

Peking, Janu 15. 1891.

Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.
J. E.

Referring to your Excellency's communication wherein you requested that delegates be sent by China to take part in the International Marine Conference, from the translation of the Hon. Secretary of State's communication it appears that all questions discussed were to be submitted for ratification to the Governments of all the Maritime Nations. Further he stated that it will be understood by all the states

taking

taking part in this conference that no questions relating to trade and commerce are within the scope of discussion, and that in the disposition of any questions which may be presented to the Conference, no state shall be entitled to more than one vote, whatever may be the number of delegates representing it. On receiving your Excellency's communication, the Tsungli Yamen at once addressed the Commissioner of the Foochow Arsenal who selected Chen Ngen-tso and Chen Ming-Li - both students.

as

as delegates to the Conference.
Instructions were also sent
to Sir Robert Hart,
Inspector General of Customs,
who selected and deputed
Captain A. M. Aisher as another
delegate to the Conference.
The Prince and Ministers
have now received from
the Minister Superintendent
of Northern Trade, a
communication enclosing
a translation of the
report of the (U. S.) delegates
to the Conference made
by the above mentioned
students - in all 13 divisions
or clauses. The Yamên
has carefully considered

the

the 1st, 2nd, 3d, 5th, 6th and 9th divisions. These refer in the general in to existing laws in force in the various Countries, or to the enactment of laws covering the necessities of the case. The 10th, 11th, and 12th divisions have relation to recommendations made by the delegates and that the various powers be asked to consider them with a view to putting them into effect. The 4th division relates to uniform regulations regarding the designating and marking of vessels which are naturally easy

and

and feasible to enforce.
The 7th division refers to
"Lanes for steamers on frequented
routes. This division it
would seem refers par-
ticularly to the routes
between America and
England. China has no
steamers plying in European
or American waters.
and hence there is no neces-
sity for her, at present
to consider this matter.
The Conference, however,
did not consider and agree
to rules for the governance
of vessels of public comfort.
Division 8 provides for that
which is right and proper

ccc

in the Navigation of vessels.
The 13th division refers to
questions which were
found to be of no benefit
and therefore to have need
not considered them.
The Yamen has considered
all of the various clauses
and have to state that
communications have been
addressed to the Governor
General of the two Kuang
Provinces, the Governor General
of Foochien and Chekiang,
the Ministers Superintendent
of Northern and Southern
Trade, and the Board
of Admiralty as to the
advisability, considering,

enforcing,

enforcing, and putting into effect the following three propositions.

1st Whether the rules now governing Navigation of vessels of China shall be proclaimed and made known.

2d Whether China should herself select from the various clauses and arrange a code of rules.

3d Whether China should consider or not the recommendations made by the delegates, but which were not agreed to by the Conference. Upon the 27th October and the 27th November last

last the Yamên received from Your Excellency two communications enclosing copies of laws in English. These were an Act of Congress carrying into effect the rules of the Conference and a Supplementary law; all of which are very minute and cover every detail. But the condition of things in China and America are not the same. It is right and proper, however, that China should consider this question and adopt rules (governing navigation) that may be carried into operation for

a

a long period of time.
The Prince and Ministers
in sending this reply
to your Excellency would
feel obliged by your
communicating its con-
tents to the Honorable
Secretary of State and
to express to him their
thanks for the friendly
feeling evinced by him.
A necessary communi-
cation addressed to
H. E. Charles Denby

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack with # 1236.
Dft
MAR 28 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1234.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 26. 1891.

acld Mord 30/91 Phelps

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Re Audience

Synopsis
Encloses memorandum of interview with the Yamen, with report of action taken by the foreign Representatives thereon. Also translation of schedule of ceremonial. New letter of credence suggested. Telegram confirmed.

No. 1234

Legation of the United States,

Peking, January 26. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the terms of my despatch No. 1227 of the 8th instant, I had an interview with the Prince and three Ministers of the Foreign Office the 21st instant. An exact report of this interview is enclosed herewith. The next day

two

two Secretaries of the Foreign Office called on the Interpreter of this Legation and left with him a memorandum of Etiquette to be observed at the audience, of which a translation is enclosed, herewith. It will be seen that the verbal answers are identical with the memorandum furnished by the Foreign Office. Yesterday I reported to a full meeting of my colleagues all that had transpired. The Diplomatic body unanimously decided that the forms prescribed by the Foreign office were not acceptable and that an effort should be made to induce

2/234

the

the Emperor to change his decree of Decr. 12. last, in some particulars. What change should be made was not definitely arrived at. The Dean, who has now recovered his health, was directed to call on the Foreign Office and to present a paper setting forth the necessity of a change of programme and to ascertain whether proposals for any change would be entertained. If he ascertains that the members of the Yamên are willing to modify the arrangements already made for an audience then the Ministers will definitely present

the

the modifications which may seem desirable. In one particular it would seem beyond any doubt that there should be a modification made. Foreign Ministers arriving here after the Chinese New Year should not be compelled to wait for an audience until the succeeding New Year. A minister might thus stay here nearly a year before being received. In the eighteen years that have elapsed since the audience of 1873 China has established diplomatic relations with the Foreign Powers and has had Representatives in the important

countries

countries. Their Representatives have been received in audience and treated with the same respect and courtesy that are accorded to the Representatives of Western Powers. It seemed to the members of the Diplomatic body here that they should demand corresponding treatment at the hands of the Chinese Government and that they should not by their actions now adopt or prevent their successors from claiming an audience within a reasonable time after their arrival. Russia, Spain, Belgium, and France are now represented by

Chargés

Chargés d'affaires. Ministers for these countries will probably arrive in the Spring. They should not be precluded by our action now from demanding an audience when they arrive. There were other points incidentally discussed but no decision was arrived at for the reason stated — that we should first ascertain whether any changes would be permitted. I will send a copy of the paper of the Dean as soon as I receive it. It is possible that as the result of conflicting ideas between the Diplomatic body and the

Foreign

Foreign Office some delay may occur in the time of holding the audience. Possibly the Foreign Representatives may conclude to await orders from their respective governments, as to whether an audience should be accepted on the terms that may be insisted on by the Japanese. In that contingency it occurred to me that I ought to call your attention to the fact that the letter of credence held by me bears date the 4th June 1885, and is signed by the then President of the United States, Hon Grover Cleveland.

If

If the audience had been fixed for an early day in February, I was prepared to present this letter of credence on the theory that, by leaving me in my present position, it had been affirmed and might be taken as the act of Hon. Benjamin Harrison, now President of the United States. But as it is somewhat likely that there may be sufficient delay to allow a new letter of credence to be sent, I concluded to wire you on the subject. I, therefore, sent you today in cipher, the following telegram: "Please send me letter of credence

or

or affirm one that I have.
In Monarchical countries it
is customary for each Monarch,
when he ascends the Throne,
to send a new letter of credence
to his Envoys. Such has not
been the rule in our country,
but as a letter of credence
is a personal letter from one
head of a state to another,
it would certainly be more
satisfactory to a Foreign
Representative to present
one from the actual head
of the State to the head
of the Government to which
he is accredited instead
of one from his predecessor -
who might be dead or

a private citizen - as in this case. You will readily appreciate the fact that I have great delicacy in presenting the question at all, but personal feeling should not be allowed to stand in the way of public duty. Should the audience be held before a new letter of credence - if one be sent - reaches me, I shall be compelled to present the one I hold. In that event I ask that my present letter of credence be affirmed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure No. 1. Interview with Yamen.
" 2 Etiquette for audience.

Enclosure No 1 in No 1234

Memorandum of an interview had at the Foreign Office January 21st 1891, at which were present on the part of the Tsung-li Yamên Prince Ch'ing and Ministers Hsü Keng Shen, Sun Yü-wen and Chang Yin-Huan, and representing the Representatives of the Foreign Powers at Peking Charles Denby accompanied by Fleming D. Cheshire as Interpreter

—— .. ——

At the beginning of this interview Colonel Denby said that he had the honor of being deputized by his colleagues to put to the Prince and Ministers certain questions as to the ceremonial and mode of procedure likely to be adopted touching the proposed audience of the foreign representatives to be held by the Emperor of China and to ask certain information on the subject. He stated that

2

he was not directed to enter upon any discussion of the matter involved but simply to report to his Colleagues such answers as might be made to his questions, leaving to his colleagues thereafter to take such action as they might see fit to take.

He then stated in their order the following questions:

1st The Foreign Representatives are of the impression that the correct reading of the Imperial Decree of the 12th December last is that the Representatives of Foreign Powers who may arrive at Peking at any time after the coming Chinese New Year are to be received in audience by the Emperor in a reasonable time after their arrival and shall not be expected to wait to be so received until the succeeding Chinese New Year.

Ded

Did the Prince and Ministers put this construction on the decree and if not what is their view touching the question?

Answer -

The Prince, who generally spoke for the Yamên, said that the Emperor of China has a great deal of business to do, that his time was very much taken up with official business and that he could not spare the time to receive in audience each Minister as he arrived at Peking, but that at the Chinese New Year succeeding the arrival of any Foreign Representative he would be received in audience.

That if there were more than one Minister who had arrived since the last New Year they would each one be received at the succeeding New Year in separate audience, and that each one could then present

his

his letter of credence.

2nd Colonel Denby stated that he was directed to say to the Prince and Ministers that some of the Foreign Representatives now at Peking are the possessors of letters of credence from the Heads of their Governments which they were commissioned to present to the Emperor and others are not the possessors of such letters being at present temporarily in charge of their respective Legations.

The Diplomatic Body desires to know what arrangement the Prince and Ministers propose to make as to the ceremonial of receiving these two classes of Foreign Representatives?

Answer.

The Prince said that the Ministers would be received first

first and could present their letters of credence and afterwards the Chargés d'affaires would be received. The ceremony would be the same as to both classes except as to the presentation of letters of credence by the Ministers.

3rd Colonel Denby said, I am further directed to enquire whether the Prince and Ministers consider that the proposed reception of the Foreign Representatives by the Emperor is to be an audience or is to be a New Years Reception of the Foreign Representatives?

Answer.

The Prince said that it was to be in the nature of both an audience and a New Years Reception. Those Representatives who had letters of credence were to present them

them as at an audience. Those who had no letters of credence were to be received as at a New Year's Reception. Colonel Denby then enquired whether the Ministers who had been received in audience were afterwards to return to the presence of the Emperor with the Chargés d'Affaires. The Prince said no; the Ministers were to be received only once.

The Prince here said, what he repeated several times, that the ceremony was to be exactly the same as that adopted at the audience of 1873, in the reign of Tung Chi.

Lt. Colonel Denby stated that he was further directed to enquire in what Hall the proposed audience was to be had?

Answer.

The

The Prince answered that the audience would be held in the same Hall as the one used for that purpose in 1873 — the Tzu Kuang Ko.

He added that the Hall so used was large and commodious.

Sr. Colonel Denby stated that the impression of the Foreign Representatives was that on the occasion of the audience each of the Foreign Representatives was to be attended by his respective staff, and to enquire whether such was the understanding of the Prince and Ministers, and if not what their views were on that subject?

Answer.

The Prince said that one Interpreter should be present with the Ministers in accordance with the audience of the 12th year

year of Tung Chih. He Charges were also to have an Interpreter. He Prince again said that the forms to be observed were the same as in 1873 during the reign of Tung Chi.

He said that all the Ministers had thoroughly considered matters relating to the audience in 1873. Everything was to be done in the same manner now and it was not necessary to make any changes.

He further said that the Emperor had ordered an audience in order that goodwill and friendly feeling might be increased between Foreign Countries and China and he hoped that the Foreign Ministers would not make any trouble for the Yamên.

In conclusion I enquired at what time it was likely

that

that the audience would be had.

It was stated by several of the Ministers that it would not be until after the 15th day in the Chinese New Year— perhaps the 20th of the first month.

Before leaving I renewed the request that was made by His Excellency Mr. von Brandt that no report should be made to His Majesty the Emperor as to the details of the ceremonial until further communication was had with the Foreign Representatives.

The Prince said they would wait before doing anything until they heard again from the Foreign Representatives.

Enclosure No 2 in No 1234.

Memorandum of the etiquette to be observed at the audience to be held at the Tzu Kuang Ko to the Foreign Representatives - the audience to be in like manner to the one had in the 12th year of Tung Chih, in obedience to the decree of His Majesty the Emperor of China.

The forms have been reverently prepared as set forth below.

The Foreign Ministers will be accompanied by one Interpreter.

They will alight from their chairs or horses at the Ta Tsing Gate and there be received by the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen, who will accompany them first to the Shih Ying Kung where they will rest for a while.

The escorts (foreign) accompanying the Foreign Representatives will remain in a tent outside the

the Fu Hua Gate where there will be persons to attend to them: The returning (Chinese) will also remain in the same vicinity. Neither escort nor returning will enter the Fu Hua Gate.

As soon as His Majesty reaches the Yu Kuang Ko, the Ministers of the Yamên will accompany the Foreign Representatives (Ministers and Chargés d'Affaires) and their Interpreters to a marquée to the west of the Yu Kuang Ko, where they will wait for a short time until His Majesty shall have entered the Main Hall. The Ministers of the Yamên will then accompany the Foreign Ministers, Chargés d'Affaires and Interpreters up the western flight of steps into the Yu Kuang Ko by the western space. The Foreign Representatives

will

will stand in their proper order in front of the yellow table. After their speech or speeches they will respectfully lay their letters of credence on the yellow table.

His Majesty the Emperor will reply acknowledging that the letters have been received and make some gracious remarks and put some kindly questions. His Majesty's remarks will be interpreted with solemn reverence by the Prince and Ministers. When the audience is over the Foreign Representatives will retire by the western flight of steps.

The Foreign Representatives when they enter the Hall, when they are speaking or stating their names, as well as when questions are addressed to them and replies made, and

on retiring, will, in accordance with the records of the audience of Jung Chich, make five bows.

The Ministers of the Yamên will accompany the Foreign Ministers and Chargés d'Affaires to the Shih Ying Kung, there the whole party being re-assembled they will conduct them out of the Ta Tsing Gate.

The next day the Yamên in obedience to His Majesty's decree will entertain the Foreign Representatives at a banquet.

US Legation to China

Jan. 24, 1891

Telegram in Cipher

Received Jany 24, 1891
11 55 P.M.

Acked. 27th Jany 91 Mrs Cr

Blaine
Washington

Please send letter of credence or affirm one that I have

Denby

New letter of credence forwarded in open mail from Dept. Jany 28, 1891
(Signed) Crosby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1235. Acknowledge

Legation of the United States.

Peking January 27th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Sikkim Convention

Synopsis

Copy thereof enclosed.

One enclosure.

No 1235.

Legation of the United States.

Peking January 27th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a printed copy of the Sikkim Convention lately agreed on by Her British Majesty's Government and the Emperor of China.

This Convention fixes the boundaries between Sikkim and Tibet, secures to England the protectorate of Sikkim

and

and provides a mode for increasing facilities of trade.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

1. Clipping fr. N. C. Daily News- "The Sikkim Convention".

Enclosure 1 in No. 1235

SIKKIM CONVENTION.

[illegible] text of the convention [illegible] Great Britain and China relating [illegible] Tibet, signed at Calcutta, [illegible] 1890, and presented to both [illegible] Parliament by command of Her [illegible] December 1890.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of China, are sincerely desirous of maintaining and perpetuating the relations of friendship and good understanding which now exist between their respective Empires, and whereas recent occurrences have tended towards a disturbance of the said relations, and it is desirable to clearly define and permanently settle certain matters connected with the boundary between Sikkim and Tibet, Her Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of China have resolved to conclude a Convention on this subject, and have, for this purpose, named Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, His Excellency the Most Honourable Henry Charles Keith Petty Fitzmaurice, G.M.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.M.I.E., Marquess of Lansdowne, Viceroy and Governor-General of India,

And His Majesty the Emperor of China, his Excellency Ting Tai, Imperial Associate Resident in Tibet, Military Deputy Lieutenant-Governor,

Who, having met and communicated to each other their full powers, and finding these to be in proper form, have agreed upon the following Convention in eight Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The boundary of Sikkim and Tibet shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Mochu and northwards into other affluents of Tibet. The line commences at Mount Gipmochi on the Bhutan frontier, and follows the above-mentioned water-parting to the point where it meets Nipal territory.

ARTICLE II.

It is admitted that the British Government, whose Protectorate over the Sikkim State is hereby recognised, has direct and exclusive control over the internal administration and foreign relations of that State, and except through and with the permission of the British Government, neither the Ruler of the State nor any of its officers shall have official relations of any kind, formal or informal, with any other country.

ARTICLE III.

The Government of Great Britain and Ireland and the Government of China engage reciprocally to respect the boundary as defined in Article I. and to prevent acts of aggression from their respective sides of the frontier.

ARTICLE IV.

The question of providing increased facilities for trade across the Sikkim-Tibet frontier will hereafter be discussed with a view to a mutually satisfactory arrangement by the High Contracting Powers.

ARTICLE V.

The question of pasturage on the Sikkim side of the frontier is reserved for further examination and future adjustment.

ARTICLE VI.

The High Contracting Powers reserve for [illegible] and arrangement the method [illegible] official communications between [illegible] authorities in India and the [illegible] Tibet shall be conducted.

Two [illegible] shall, within six months [illegible] ratification of this Convention, be appointed, one by the British Government in India, the other by the Chinese Resident in Tibet. The said Commissioners shall meet and discuss the questions which, by the last three preceding Articles, have been reserved.

ARTICLE VIII.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in London as soon as possible after the date of the signature thereof.

In witness whereof the respective negotiators have signed the same, and affixed thereunto the seals of their arms.

Done in quadruplicate at Calcutta, this 17th day of March, in the year of our Lord 1890, corresponding with the Chinese date, the 27th day of the second moon of the 16th year of Kuang Hsü.

(L.S.) (Signed) LANSDOWNE.

(L.S.) Signature of the Chinese Plenipotentiary.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack with #1234
Dft aab
MAR 28 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

Ack'd
Mail 30/91
Pluff

No 1236.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 28th 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 28 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Audience.

Synopsis

Encloses copies of Protocol of meeting of foreign Representatives and paper on the audience question by the Dean.

Two enclosures.

No 1236.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 28th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of the protocol of the proceedings had at the meeting of the foreign Representatives, which is mentioned in my despatch No 1234 of Jan. 24th.

I enclose also a copy of the paper prepared by His Excellency Mr. von Brandt, Dean

of

of the Diplomatic Body, which is to be delivered to the Foreign Office. The paper of the Dean is a dignified and forcible statement of the views of the foreign Representatives. It recites the fact that China has since 1873 been represented at several important courts and countries, and that the Chinese Envoys, as well as their Secretaries, Interpreters and attaches have been received in separate audiences by the various chiefs of governments. It sets out that the audience question has not been pressed by the foreign powers for the reason that

They

they desired that the Chinese Government should have time to learn thoroughly the practice and usage of those powers, before the presentation of a demand for an audience was made.

It states that while the Foreign Office now insists that the foreign Representatives should be received in mass and that audiences shall not be granted to newly arrived ministers until the succeeding Chinese New Year, nevertheless in 1873 and 1874 there were four separate audiences granted to four several ministers.

It suggests that if these changes in the ceremonial cannot be immediately made a postponement might be had.

In consultation with my colleagues I have always strenuously insisted that there should be a separate audience of each minister, and that he should be accompanied by his own interpreter and secretaries. I insist on this course not only because it is the rule the world over, but also because it accentuates the recognition of the international equality of each and every nation with China- which is the chief moral element of

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an audience. I prefer a separate audience; also, because it gives me the sole right to decide what forms are to be accepted by me. It is possible that, as I represent a republican form of government, the representatives of monarchical governments might differ from me as to the ceremonial to be observed. I hope that no such difference will arise, but I would prefer to occupy an independent position. As the matter stands I am one of six ministers who must all go together to the audience and must all observe the same ceremonial. Being only

one

one sixth of the whole number I am, to some extent, bound by any decision that my colleagues may make.

I am not, however, so wedded to the idea of a separate audience as to prevent my acceding to the proposition of a joint audience on this particular occasion rather than to reject an audience altogether. The occasion is novel and the Emperor has taken the initiative and, if the other conditions are acceptable, I am prepared to accept a joint audience for this one occasion. But, as the whole tenor of the ceremonial as proposed is based on the forms

agreed

agreed on in 1873, and as in 1874 there were in fact separate audiences, the Yamên has no right now to insist that separate audiences shall not be granted to Ministers as they arrive. It must be understood that we are now probably setting the mode and manner of conducting an audience for all time to come. The tenacity with which China holds to precedents is shown by the stand now taken that all things shall be done as they were done in 1873. If we yield to the point now that only one audience can be had each year we will greatly

embarrass

embarass our successors and we will retard the progressive movement in China, of which the proposed audience is a shining indication.

As you will see by the enclosures it is likely that a postponement of the audience may be had. Time will, therefore, probably be afforded in which I can receive your instructions as to the course to be pursued. To enable you to consider the situation, as well as to preserve on my archives a complete history of the treatment of the audience question, I have adopted the plan of sending

to

to you an account of each step in the discussion as it occurs.

In my despatch already cited I asked for a new letter of credence. To the reasons then given I may be permitted to add that, in a matter so novel and important as an audience, it occurred to me that the President himself would prefer that a letter of credence signed by himself should be delivered to the Emperor rather than one signed by his predecessor. I was in no sense actuated by any imaginable personal or private matter.

J

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Proceedings of foreign Representatives
2. Paper re audience to be presented by Mr. von Brandt to Yamên. Mis. No. 2/1891.

Enclosure 1 in No 1236

Protocol of the meeting of the foreign Representatives at the Yeman Legation on January 23rd 1891.

Present: the Representatives of Belgium, France, the Yeman Empire, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia Spain and the United States.

His Excellency Colonel Denby having read to the meeting a statement of the results of his interview with the members of the Tsungli Yamên, on the 21st inst., and having also communicated to the meeting the translation of a paper received from the Yamên on the 22nd inst., refering to the ceremonial to be observed at the proposed audience, both papers being annexed to this protocol, the Representatives present were unanimously of opinion that the declarations and proposals of the Yamên were

unacceptable

unacceptable, the ceremonial to be observed at the audience in 1891 being exactly the same as that for the audience in 1873 (See memorandum presented by Prince Kung to the foreign Representatives of June 26th 1873) with the exception that five bows are now demanded instead of three.

Mr. von Brandt having so far recovered as to be able to call upon the Yamên was then instructed to ask for an interview with the Prince and Ministers of the Yamên and to place before them the remarks embodied in the annexed paper as representing the unanimous views of the foreign Representatives now resident at Peking; he was also authorized to have a Chinese translation of this paper made to be left with the Prince and Ministers to serve as an aide-memoire.

Mr.

Mr. von Brandt was equally authorized, if an opportunity offered itself, to suggest to the Prince and Ministers that if further time for reflection seemed necessary the Yamên might write a polite note to the Representatives informing them that, on account of the death of His Imperial Highness Prince Chün, a postponement of the audience for some time had become necessary.

The representatives were of opinion that such a course would be preferable to a perhaps angry and acrimonious discussion of the question besides giving them the time place a full statement of the case as well as of their opinions before their respective governments and enabling them to receive instructions on the points in question.

Cordial thanks having been expressed to His Excellency Colonel

Denby

Denby for the trouble taken and the work done the meeting then adjourned.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1236

Aide Memoire to be given to the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên

Since foreign representatives were for the first time received by H.M. the Emperor of China in 1873, eighteen years have passed away and during this time the international relations of China have undergone a great change. While in 1873 the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên thought it necessary to make certain reserves with regard to the eventual reception of Chinese Ministers by foreign Courts or governments (pt. VI of the Protocol of May 15th 1873) since then not only a large number of Chinese envoys have been received by the sovereigns and rulers of Treaty Powers in order to allow them to present their letters of credence or recall, but also

the

the members of their missions including Secretaries, a[illegible] attachés and interpreters have been allowed to enjoy the same advantages and priveleges in officiae intercourse which are granted by the different courts and governments to the members of Legations accredited with them. The position is, therefore, today an entirely other one than it was in 1873. Notwithstanding this change in the relative treatment of missions accredited to China or to the Treaty Powers the representatives of Treaty Powers accredited at Peking have abstained from raising the audience question not only during the minority of His Majesty the Emperor but also after His Majesty had assumed the government. In acting thus they have been animated by the desire not to create discussions and difficulties

but

but to give the Chinese Government time and opportunity to study at leisure and get acquainted with the rights and priveleges internationas law and usage grant to the representatives accredited by one sovereign ruler to another.

The audience question having now been raised by the Chinese Government itself, it becomes the duty of the foreign representatives to draw to the attention of the Chinese Government to the ~~altered~~ changes which the altered state of circumstances renders necessary. The Chinese Government must be well aware that the reception of the foreign ministers in 1873 did not produce all the effects that were expected from it; the form in which it had taken place was severely criticized by foreign public opinion, while Chinese public

opinion

opinion saw in it an assumption
of superiority on the part of
China which, though certainly
very far from the minds of
the Chinese statesmen actively
engaged in the question produced
a decidedly unfavorable impression
with regard to the furtherance
of friendly relations upon large
classes of the Chinese population.
The Ministers, members of the
Yamên at that time, were
themselves perfectly aware of
these facts and on more than
one occasion the principal ones
among them declared that the
manner in which the audience
had ~~been held~~ taken place
ought to be considered as a first
step towards regulating the
external forms of international
intercourse between China and
the Treaty Powers as far as the
reception by the sovereign and
the presentation of the letters

of credence by the foreign
Representatives were concerned
and that changes in the
ceremonial then observed were
by no means excluded. The
possibility of such changes
has, however, not only been
theoretically admitted but it
has taken place practically. While
the Tsungli Yamen in Art. III
of the Protocol of May 19 1873
still maintained the principle
that the reception of the Ministers
of five powers, such as it was
then proposed to take place, should
be made to serve as a precedent,
in the following year the newly
accredited Russian Minister
Mr. de Butzow, and the Belgian
Minister Mr. Serruys, were
received alone in audience by
His Majesty the Emperor Tung
Chih, and the same thing
took place in the same year
when the newly accredited Minister

of Japan, Mr. Yanagiwara, and of the United States, Mr. Avery, though being received on the same day had separate audiences. The right of the foreign ministers to present their letters of credence in separate audiences has, therefore, been fully recognized and acted upon in China and the representatives now accredited in China, some of whom have been waiting patiently for many years to present their letters of credence, see no reason to recede from the position recognized by the Chinese Government in the case of their predecessors. The foreign representatives can, at the same time, only repeat the declarations already made by their predecessors in 1873 with regard to Ministers newly arriving in China i.e. that while the right to name the time of reception must of course

be

be reserved to His Majesty, excessive delay in according such a reception would not but be considered as evidence of an unfriendly feeling. They must, with regard to this point, and in order that their action may not be misunderstood and considered as precluding a foreign minister afterwards arriving from exercising his right of claiming and obtaining an audience in order to present his letters of credence, insist upon a formal and satisfactory declaration from the Yamên that such will be, in future, the course followed.

They must also point out that great changes in the international relations between China and the Treaty Powers having taken place in the meanwhile, the forms observed in the audiences in 1873 and

1874

1874 ought to be submitted to a revision and, where necessary, to an alteration already rendered obvious by the fact that while these Ministers were only received for the presentation of their letters of credence, the Imperial Edict issued in this year includes also Chargés d'Affaires i.e Representatives not furnished with such documents.

If the Tsungli Yamên should not consider themselves authorized to enter upon a discussion on this question without previously taking the order of His Majesty the Emperor, the Representatives request the Yamên to do so and place the contents of this "aide memoire" before His Majesty. They can, at the same time, only state that if reasons unknown to them should prevent the Chinese

Government

Government from placing the Representatives of Treaty Powers in China upon a footing similar to that accorded to Chinese Ministers abroad they should be willing to leave full time for consideration to the Chinese Government, but if the Tsungli Yamên should insist upon the acceptance of a programme declared inadmissible by the foreign Representatives, the latter would find themselves in the impossibility of accepting an audience under conditions not in accordance with the rules of international right and courtesy.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 27 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1237

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 28 1891

ackd. March 31/91 Philips

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

A Telegraph Line from Peking to Kiachta.

Synopsis

It is not true that such a line has been ordered to be built.

No. 1237

Legation of the United States,
Peking, Jany. 28. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 1183,
of the 23 Oct., I set out
the advantages to be
derived from the construction
of a Trans-Pacific Cable
from San Francisco to
Yokohama. I have
lately seen in the public
press statements to the
effect that the Chinese

Government

Government had consented to the construction of a Telegraphic Line from Peking to Kiachta. If these statements were true they might have some effect on the proposition to lay a cable across the Pacific. But, the statements are not true. From the best information that I can obtain here, I am prepared to say that no step, whatever, has been taken here towards constructing a line to Kiachta, and that the subject has not been discussed at the Foreign Office, for more than six months

months. It is true that the Telegraphic question might, as effecting the interior of China, be decided without notification to the Foreign Office, but, it is not likely, as Foreign questions are more or less involved. No doubt the new Russian Minister will, when he arrives, take up the old question of a "Convention" for telegraphic monopoly. If there is any prospect for laying a Trans-Pacific Cable it is important that the exact condition here be known.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Mr Scudder

Mr Scudder

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 27 1891

No 1238.

Legation of the United States.

Peking January 29th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Trade and Commerce of China for the year 1890.

Synopsis

Effect of the rise in silver. The business done in the prominent lines of woolen goods, piece goods, cotton yarn, T-cloths, metals tea, silk compared with 1889.

[Filed for ref]

No 1238.

Legation of the United States.

Peking January 29th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit a few general obsrvations on the trade and commerce of China, during the year 1890, abstracted generally from the columns of the North China News.

The passage of the silver bill in the United States created a great flurry in exchange

exchange. At some ports business was suspended for a time and loud were the mutterings of the merchants.

Having bought goods for shipment when silver was low, and being compelled to sell exchange when silver was very high, they preferred to hold their goods until they could realize more on their drafts on London. But silver commenced to decline after a short time and the anxiety of the merchants meanwhile disappeared.

It seems that cotton and woolen goods have held their own and importers have done

a

a satisfactory business. To those who had large stocks on hand the rise of silver in the autumn was a great advantage. Still the deliveries of piece-goods in 1890 exceeded those in 1889.

Of cotton yarn imported from Bombay and England in 1890 there were 463.463 piculs as against 213.823 piculs in 1889 — a very considerable increase.

In T. cloths there has been a falling off. These cloths seem to be going out of favor with the Chinese.

Metals have mainly held their own though lead is not up

to

to last year's figures. Nail rod iron shows an increase.

The McKinley tariff has been attached here as elsewhere in countries where England dominates, but it is claimed, with some inconsistency, that this tariff has distinctly benefited the English trade in woolens in China. It is claimed, also, that the export trade of Germany has been injured by it's protective system to the corresponding benefit of England.

The rise in silver has had a depressing effect on the export trade.

The tea trade has paid fair returns to shippers. The trade

in

in black tea has been unusually good: But the diminution in the quantities of tea exported has been in latter years enormous. The North China News shows the diminution by the following table:

	1890	1885
Black Tea	26,336,994 lbs.	65,940,685 lbs
Green Tea	4.559.527 "	9.310,574 "
Total	30.896.521 lbs	75.251,259 lbs

The American market in tea has been uncertain but is now reassuring.

Silks bought after the rise in silver did not meet a corresponding market in Europe. The tael price did not change with

with the rise and the settlements for the season are less even than they were in 1887.

The North China News states that the Shanghai stock market has been disastrously effected by the rise in silver. Stocks of all kinds have fallen in value with the exception of the shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. At the end of December 1889 the shares of this bank were at a premium of 186%, while at the same period in 1890 the premium was 255½%. This is accounted for by the fact that the bank is on a silver

basis

basis and gained immensely by a rise in exchange.

In Shanghai; on the 27th day of Dec. 1889, the rate for bank bills on demand was 4 S 4½ d, and on the 26th Dec. 1890 the rate was 4 S 9 d.

Should Congress pass the free coinage silver bill another rise may be expected in silver. Such a rise would be hailed with great pleasure by all the foreign residents in China who desire to remit money home. Those who permanently live in China and receive their salaries, or wages, in silver and spend them in China will not be at all affected. Those residents who are paid

in

in gold and spend their money here will lose largely because, by the appreciation of silver, gold dollars will produce much fewer silver dollars — which are the currency of China.

Altogether it is conceded that the year has not been a bad one for business.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Kleberger

DIPLOM... BUREAU.
MAR 27 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 29th 1891.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Salary account.

Two enclosures.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 29th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my salary account for the quarter ending Dec. 31st 1890, and my account for loss by exchange thereon.

Against the salary account I drew my draft on Messrs. Morton Rose & Co, London, in the usual way and against the loss by exchange thereon on

the

the Honorable Secretary of State.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby Jr.

Second Secretary.

Enclosures:

As above.

Rockhill

No 1239.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 2d, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Enclosing account
for telegrams from December
13th 1890, to January 24th, 1891.

No. 1239. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 2d. 1891.

Honorable James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to transmit
you Enclosed my account for
telegrams from December 13th 1890,
to January 24th 1891, amounting
to $44.64— against which I have
this day drawn my draft on you
in the usual manner.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1—

Account as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 27 1891

Acknowledge

No 1240.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 3d, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

— Subject —

New Years call of Chinese officials.

No 1240. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 3d, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to inform you that yesterday the Prince President of the Tsungli Yamun, the Ministers and other high officials, whose names and rank are given in the enclosed list, called at this Legation to offer their wishes for the New Year, and were entertained at what might be called an informal repast.

The Prince expressed his gratification at the friendly relations which

Existed

existing between the United States and Siam and his conviction that the new year would but strengthen the amicable feeling already established between the two Countries.

The general conversation was confined to social topics. I referred to the fact, however, that I had news from Bishop Jr, favorable to a settlement of the Missionary difficulties here, which the Prime and Ministers was pleased to hear, remarking that a great deal of correspondence had passed on the subject, and a final disposition of the troubles would be gratifying to them.

The New Years call this year was made at this late date owing

to the death of the Emperors father - Prince Bluen.

I may remark that for the first time the Chinese officials called in their full uniform and were received by the Foreign Representatives of the other Legations, in similar costume, my staff and myself appearing in Evening dress.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1-
List of officials as above.

Enclosure 1. with despatch 1240.

List of Officials who called at the United States Legation on the 2d of February 1891.

Prince Ching. President of the Tsung li Yamen.
Jui Hsiang. Minister of the Tsung li Yamen, Assistant Grand Secretary, and President of the Board of Revenue.
Kuei Ling Hsien. Minister of the Tsung li Yamen and President of the Board of War.
Sun Yü Hsien. Minister of the Tsung li Yamen, President of the Board of Punishments and Member of the Grand Council.
Prince Chun Tsung. Minister of the Tsung li Yamen, and Vice President of the Board of Revenue.
Hsiang Hsi Hsien. Minister of the Tsung li Yamen and Minister of the Grand Court of Revision.
Kuei Fu. Vice President of the Board of Civil Offices.
Ching Hsin. do. do. do.
Wên Hsiang do. Board of Rites
Chin Ying Hsien do. do. do.

Li Hsiu Tsun. Vice President of the Board of Rites.
Pe Ko Tsun Lee. do. Board of War.
Kao Shun. President Board of Punishments.
Kei Shing. do. Board of Works
Wang Tsing Tsuan. Vice President do. do.
Hsin Shing. Grand Secretary and Comptroller of the Hothwick Office.
Seung Sen President of the Hothwick Office.
Fong Ming. Vice President do. do.
Sun Shih Tsai President of the Censorate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED

No 1244.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 2nd 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The revenue of China.

Synopsis

A statement of the items of this revenue prepared by the Board of Revenue.

No 1241.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 3rd 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to send you the following estimates of the revenue of China reported lately by the Board of Revenue. The annual receipts from the foreign Customs is about Hs. 15.000.000; from the land tax about Hs 10.000.000; from the Salt Duty about Hs. 12.000.000; from native customs about

Hs.

Hs. 3,000,000; from Likin taxes about Hs. 13,000,000; from the contributions of tea and salt merchants about Hs. 3,500,000; from the various other taxes about Hs. 15,000,000, and from the reduction of coolie workmen in the armies about 530,000 taels. The total amounts to taels 80,000,000.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 14 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1242.

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 6th 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Coinage of precious metals

No. 1242.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 6th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your circular of Dec. 10th last requesting information as to production, coinage etc., of precious metals, I have the honor to state that I have this day forwarded to the Director of the Mint replies to the questions therein proposed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Nicholson

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 27 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 27 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1243.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 6th, 1891.

Mr. Blaine
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Account for Contingent
Expenses for Quarter ending
December 31st 1890.

No. 1243. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 6th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a Statement of my account for Contingent Expenses for Quarter Ending December 31st 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

Delby to Hale

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 14 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1244

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 9. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Acknowledges despatches.

No. 1244

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 9 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches
Nos. 566 of December 2. 1890,
" 567 " 6. "
" 568 " " "
" 569 " 10. "

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby.

Wiesbaden

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 14 1891

No 1245.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 11th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Furniture account.

One enclosure.

No 1245.

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 11th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my account supported by vouchers for the amount expended for the purchase of new furniture for the Legation as authorized by your despatch No 566 of Dec. 2nd 1890. Against this account I have drawn my draft for $400.00 to balance.

5

3

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

1. Account as above.

Kiekhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 14 1891

Separate.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 12th, 1891.

Mr. F. D. Chesbro
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Contingent account for Loss
by Exchange for Quarter
ending December 31st, 1890.

Separate One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 12th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward you enclosed duplicate statement of my account for loss by Embargo for Quarter Ending the 30th September 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

J.W. Goodnow.

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure 1 — Duplicate Statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 24 1891

Kieckhoefer

No. 1

Despatch.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 12th, 1891.

Wm. F. D. Chrisman
to the
Secretary of State.

Despatch
Despatch Salary Account
for Quarter Ending 31st December
1890.

Separate. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 12th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward you enclosed duplicate statement of my salary account for the quarter ending the 31st December 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

F.D. Church.

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure 1. Duplicate statement as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 14 1891

No 1246.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 12th, 1891.

Wm. Beaver Hunky
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Enclosing Duplicate Salary
Account for Quarter Ending
December 31st 1890.

No. 1246 One enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 12th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed duplicate statement of my salary account for quarter ending December 31st 1890.

46.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby.

Enclosure 1 - Duplicate statement as above.

Ex by to Dole

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 14 1891

No 1247.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 13th, 1891.

Hon. Wharton Barker.
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Official Return of Passports
granted during 31st December
1891.

No 1247. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 13th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of the Passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ending December 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1— Duplicate as above.

duplicate

STATEMENT OF PASSPORTS

sued at the Legation of the United States at Pekin,

from October 1st, 1890, to December 31st, 1890.

To accompany Dispatch No. ____, of ____, 18__.

DATE.	TO WHOM ISSUED.	NUMBER.	EVIDENCE ON WHICH ISSUED.	FEE.
Oct 1	Hays. George S	604	Knowledge of Bartlett	$1.
" "	Pratt. C. W.	605	W. R. Fuller	"
" "	Boughton. Emma F.	606	State Department Passport No 8829	"
" "	Sharpant. William P.	607	U.S. Legation Passport 459. Sept 7/88	"
" "	Johnson. Charles. F.	608	Agnes Elliot Johnson	"
" 18	Keen Ada	609	F. S. Sherlock	"
" 4	Steward. J. J	610	U.S. Legation Passport 348. 9th Oct 84	"
" 30	Mc Cready James H.	611	W. S. Eggers	"
Nov 14	Sickles Flora	612	W. P. Bentley	"
" 17	Watson. Bohman W.	613	John. D. Mc Kenzie	"
" 22	Kerritt. Joshua C.	614	State Department Passport 3839	"
" 27	Hunter. Stephen A.	615	U.S. Legation Passport No 504. 6 June 87	"
Dec 12	O'Toole James	616	James Brabbins	"
"	Evans. John J.	617	Charles M Tupnick	"

STATEMENT OF PASSPORTS

sued at the Legation of the United States at Peking,

from October 1st, 1890, to December 31st, 1890.

To accompany Dispatch No. ____, of ____, 18__.

DATE.	TO WHOM ISSUED.	NUMBER.	EVIDENCE ON WHICH ISSUED.	FEE.
Oct 12	Crabtree James	618	Charles M. Maynick	$ 1
"	Lieder John	619	John. J. Evans	"
"	Sandy Thomas	620	John. J. Evans	"
"	Maynick. Charles M.	621	John. J. Evans	"
"	Marshall. George. J.	622	William Hagengrist	"
"	Hagengrist. William,	623	George J. Marshall	"
13	Heyenburger. Joseph A.	624	Wm. H. Farris	"
19	Bevins. David W.	625	W. S. Eggers	"
20	Neal. James Boyd	626	Gilbert Reid	"
				$ 23.

Charles Denby
United States Minister

Mr. Rieckhoefer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 14 1891

No 1248.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 13th, 1891.

Mr. Denby.
to Mr.
Secretary of State

Despatch

Duplicate Account for Telegrams from December 13th 1890 to January 24th 1891.

No 1248. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, February 13th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate account for Telegrams from December 13th 1890, to January 24th 1891.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1—
Duplicate account as above.

Mississippi

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 14 1891

No 1249.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 14th, 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Account for Coal by
Exchanges for Quarter Ending
December 31st 1890.

No 1249. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 14th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to
hand you Enclosed my account
for Loss by Exchange for Quarter
Ending the 31st of December
1890.

1249.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. account as above.

Letter to Wells

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED

Con Cuddles

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR15 1891

No 1250.

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 23rd 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Audience

Synopsis

Encloses copies of six papers bearing on the audience question.

Six enclosures.

No. 1250.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 23rd 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose copies of the following papers bearing on the audience question.

A memorandum of an interview between Mr. von Brandt and certain members of the Tsungli Yamên, which took place January 26th 1891;

A protocol of a meeting of

the

1/50

the Representatives of the
Treaty Powers held at the
2/1250 German Legation, January 30th
1891;

A memorandum of an
interview between the members
3/1250 of the Tsungli Yamên and Mr.
von Brandt had January 31st
1891;

A protocol of a meeting of
the foreign Representatives held
4/1250 at the German Legation February
1st 1891;

A memorandum of an interview
between the members of the
5/1250 foreign office and Mr. von Brandt
had the 5th day of February 1891;

A protocol of a meeting of
the foreign Representatives held
at

at the German Legation, the
6th day of February 1891.

I refrain from comments
on these papers until a
conclusion shall have been
arrived at.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Six enclosures as above.

Enclosure No 1 in No 12

Mis No 5

(Copy)

Memorandum

Mr. von Brandt had the opportunity at the visit which the Prince and Ministers paid to him today to speak to the Prince in the sense of the aide memoire agreed upon and to give His Highness a copy of it, at his demand. Further discussion was postponed until a conference arranged to take place at the Yamên on the 31st instant. The contents of the aide memoire produced undoubtedly a deep impression upon the Prince and Ministers who again brought forward, though in a very cursory manner the many occupations of the Emperor which would prevent His Majesty from receiving the Ministers singly or single Ministers arriving afterwards in separate audiences. The Prince repeatedly expressed the wish that the audience might

take

take place on the basis of the former program with some slight alterations and the Minister Sun-yi-wen insisted very much on the proof of great friendship on the part of China given by the willingness of the Emperor to receive the foreign ministers

The Chinese Ministers present were Prince Ching, Hsü-wen-chen Sun-yi-wen and Liao Shou-Ming

Peking Jan. 27th 1891.

Enclosure N:2 in N:125

No. N:o 11
Rec'd Feb. 12th 1891.

(Copy) **Protocol**

of the meeting of the Representatives of Treaty Powers held at the German Legation on Jan. 30th 1891.

Present: The Representatives of Belgium, France, the German Empire Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States; the Representative of Russia being absent on account of indisposition:

The following points to serve as guidance for Mr. von Brandt in his negotiations with the Yamên on the audience question were discussed and adopted in the form hereafter mentioned:

A. The Representatives to be received:

1°/ Either singly, each accompanied by his Interpreter and the members of his Legation belonging to the diplomatic service, or

2°/ The Representatives having

letters

letters of credence to present being received singly, each one accompanied by his Interpreter and afterwards the whole diplomatic body being received together, the Doyen making a short congratulatory speech and the different Representatives not yet having had an audience, as well as the other members of the diplomatic body, being presented to the Emperor by

Prince Ch'ing

or

the Doyen,

the former, in that case, to be furnished with the exact phraseology to be used; or

3°/ as a concession, for this time only, all the Representatives with their Secretaries and Interpreters entering together, the Representatives furnished with letters of credence presenting them separately and finally a short congratulatory address to be pronounced by the

Doyen

Doyen.

B. The audience to take place in one of the audience halls of the palace proper, the Tai-ho-tien (throne room) and the Wu-yin-tien being mentioned, the latter one being a kind of library.

C. The Representatives not being kept waiting for any length of time before the audience.

D. The question through which of the five or three openings in a Chinese gateway the Representatives bearers of letters of credence and the other Representatives ought to pass was extensively discussed and ventilated. Though the Representatives were of opinion that as long as one of their number was the bearer of a letter of credence to the Emperor he ought to pass through the middle opening, through which, according to Chinese ceremonial not only the person of the Emperor but also the imperial edicts and seals passed,

it

it was, nevertheless, resolved not to open this question but to claim only the next best opening i.e. from the outside the one to the right of the middle opening. The reasons for this decision were that, as the question once raised could not be abandoned and was certain to meet with the greatest opposition on the part of the Chinese, it would be better not to touch it at all, it even being doubtful if for autograph letters of sovereigns the same ceremonial might be claimed as for the sovereigns themselves. In any case the action of the foreign Representatives thus confined to what they had an undoubted right to ask, would prove their desire not to raise questions which might endanger the final results of the negotiations to be undertaken.

I. The letter of credence either

to

to be placed into the hands of the Emperor or, as this would certainly prove impossible to be obtained, on a table near enough to the throne that the Emperor could take them if he should be inclined to do so.

F. The rehearsal of the ceremony at the Yamên to be refused.

G. The dinner to be offered to the Representatives at the Tsungli Yamên to be refused as had been already done in 1873; the Representatives being of opinion that any banquet offered them should be at the Palace.

The two last points as not likely to be brought forward immediately were reserved for further discussion.

/s/ M. von Brandt
Charles Denby
John Waldham
K. Otori
A. Parra

J. K. Zerguron
Y. de Unibari
P. Ristelhueber
Charles Micoe
approuvé: C. Kleinénow.

Enclosure No 3 in No 125

is No 10
Rec'd Feb. 12th 1891.

(Copy)

Memorandum

On the meeting held at the Tsungli Yamên on Jan. 31st 1891, between the Chinese Ministers Prince Ch'ing, Hsü Keng-shen, Sun-yi-wen and Chang Yin-huan, and Mr. von Brandt, the latter in the name and for the Representatives of the Treaty Powers.

After some general complimentary remarks Prince Ch'ing asked Mr. von Brandt what were the views of the foreign Representatives on the question of the audience. Mr. von Brandt replied that before entering upon any details he had to make some remarks on the principle underlying the question. Two sides had to be taken into consideration; the personal and the international ones. With regard to the first it was unquestionably an honor for a representative to be received by a sovereign, and he and his colleagues considered their

reception

reception by His Majesty in that light; from the international point of view there could be no doubt that a representative, being accredited by a sovereign or ruler, had the right to demand an audience in order to present his letter of credence as, by the rules of international law generally adopted and recognized he could not enter upon the discharge of his official duties before having done so. The foreign representatives now at Peking were, therefore, bound to assure themselves that their reception by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor was not to preclude any newly arriving minister from demanding and obtaining an audience in order to present his letter of credence. Mr. von Brandt referred the Chinese ministers to the experience of H. E. Chang present at the conference and that of the other

Chinese

Chinese representatives which had been accredited to foreign countries.

After some desultory remarks about the minority of the Emperor, which had until now rendered an audience impossible, Prince Ch'ing declared that if a foreign minister furnished with letters of credence arrived in future at Peking, he would have to write to the Yamên demanding an audience in order to present his letters of credence, which would then be granted; perhaps not immediately but not with too long a delay according to circumstances.

Mr. von Brandt, declaring this promise to be satisfactory, then proceeded to explain to the Prince and Ministers the way in which the foreign Representatives might be received. He pointed out that the proper way to receive them would be in separate audiences, but that, in order to show their

willingness

willingness to meet the Yamen as far as possible, the audience to take place might for once be a general one, all the foreign Representatives with their diplomatic staff and their interpreters entering at the same time, those Representatives having letters of credence presenting them separately, which ceremony having been gone through with the Doyen would make a short congratulatory address in the name of the Diplomatic Body. At the mention of the presentation of the letters of credence the Prince interrupted Mr. von Brandt by saying, "they will place them on the table. Mr. von Brandt replied that they were not discussing one point, the other points being taken in their turn. After a short and very pleasant discussion the Prince proposed, without any suggestion from Mr. von Brandt that the Representatives having letters of credence to present should

be

be received each one separately with his own interpreter, and that after these separate receptions were over all the Representatives should re-enter the Imperial Presence together with their Secretaries of Legation and one interpreter, the Dayen pronouncing a short congratulatory address. The Prince gave as a reason why it would not be desirable that the Representatives should be accompanied each by his own interpreter, at this second general reception, that the hall of reception was not very large, that it would be, therefore, inconveniently crowded and that the going into the presence of the Emperor and the leaving of the reception hall would prove difficult if a too large number of persons were present.

Mr. von Brandt replied that the Prince's proposal seemed to contain the elements of an understanding

and

and that he would place it before his colleagues.

The conversation was then turned by the Prince to the place of reception as which he designated the Tzu-kuang-ko. Mr. von Brandt stated that with regard to this place grave objections existed in the minds of the foreign Representatives and that he and his colleagues would be very thankful if the Yamên would propose some other place. To the question what were the objections Mr. von Brandt replied that the Tzu-kuang-ko was not within the Imperial Palace but in an out of the way corner of the garden and that besides, foreign public opinion had pronounced itself so very strongly against the use of this place that it would be difficult for the foreign Representatives to ignore it; he could, therefore, only repeat the request that another place might

be

be selected. Prince Ch'ing then stated that he could not understand what objections could be raised against the hall in question, it being a very fine place in very good order and being used for the banquet offered to the Mongol Princes. M. von Brandt rejoined that that was perhaps one of the reasons which rendered it undesirable as a place for the audience of the foreign Representatives and that he had no doubt that there were a great many places in the Palace which could serve the purpose much better than the Tzu-Kuang-Ko. From this moment the conversation grew rather excited on the part of the Chinese Ministers. Sun-yi-wên declared that the Palace was quite out of the question as no one could be received there who did not perform the kotow; that the Tzu-Kuang-Ko had once been selected and that the ministers

would

would have to go there. On the Prince repeating this declaration, Mr. von Brandt replied that the Tzu-Kuang-Ko would not be acceptable to the foreign Representatives but that he had no doubt that if the Yamên would place before His Majesty the reasons which made the place undesirable another place might be easily found. To this Prince Ch'ing answered "certainly not in the Palace "but perhaps in the Hsi Yüan, "western garden, the part of the "garden actually inhabited by "His Majesty and Her Majesty the "Empress ex-Regent, though the "halls there were not as large and "convenient as the Tzu-Kuang-Ko".

On Mr. von Brandt answering that he would be very willing to transmit to his colleagues any proposal the Prince might make on this point, Sun-yi-wên interposed with the remark that there were

no

no places in that part of the garden and that any other place but the Tzu-kuang-Ko was quite out of the question, to which H.E. Chang added if the foreign Representatives objected to the Tzu-kuang-Ko the Yamên would write to the cabinets of the Treaty Powers to inquire whether international law allowed foreign Representatives to dictate to a sovereign the place where he was to receive them. Mr von Brandt answered that it was rather difficult to discuss the question with the Yamên. The foreign Representatives had an undoubted right by international law and courtesy to be received in the palace, but they were told that that could not be done on account of Chinese law and when they objected to some other places they were told that they had no right to do so under international law! He, for his part,

had

had not the slightest objection to see the question submitted to the decision of his government and he was quite ready to ask for it's instructions, nor did he doubt that his colleagues would do the same; but he thought it his duty to point out to the Yamên that the answers from the foreign governments might not improbably be that, as a general principle, the views of the Yamên was quite correct, but, as to the particular case, the objections of the foreign Representatives were equally so. In that case the position, instead of being a better one, would be rather worse and he did not think that that would be in the interest of either party. He would, therefore, recommend once more that the Yamên might place the objections of the foreign Representatives before His Majesty and recommend a place better suited than the Tzu-Kuang-Ko. Prince Ch'ing thereupon

asking

asking if the foreign Representatives would declare their readiness to submit to the imperial decision if asked for by the Yamên, Mr. von Brandt parried the question by replying that as the audience was, according to imperial edict, to strengthen the friendly relations between China and the Treaty Powers, he had not the slightest doubt that nothing would be farther from the wish of His Majesty than to impose upon the foreign Representatives conditions which they, for very good reasons, had declared unacceptable.

The Chinese Ministers then said that they expected Mr. von Brandt to write them a despatch giving his reasons for the non-acceptance of the Tzu-Kuang-Ko, which they would make the basis of their action with regard to the cabinets of the Treaty Powers. Mr. von Brandt replied that for that purpose his

verbal

verbal declarations would be so much more sufficient as the foreign Representatives themselves would address reports to their governments, giving the reasons for their action. He thought, however, that it would be best to abstain from all written communication between the Yamên and the Representatives as they were always likely to leave some bitterness behind them, which he was of opinion would be better avoided. It would, however, be very easy for the Yamên to find sufficient time for a thorough ventilation of the question if the Ministers would write a short note to the foreign Representatives stating that, on account of the death of His Imperial Highness Prince Chün, it was desirable to postpone the audience for some time. To such a course the Chinese Ministers objected most strongly, insisting again upon a

despatch

despatch from the foreign Representatives stating their objections. The discussion then went on for over an hour always turning upon the same points without any progress being made, the spirit in which the negotiation was carried on by the Chinese Ministers being illustrated by the remarks from the Prince that he thought the action of the Representatives only intended to increase difficulties to the Yamên, and that it was so much more incomprehensible as in the aide-memoire nothing had been said of the place of reception, the place being besides already fixed by imperial decree, the Yamên being only ordered to report on the ceremonies. Sun-yi-wên, who had more than once declared that the anger was rising in his throat and nearly suffocating himself, chimed in, without the point having been brought forward in any manner, by saying

"And

"And the entertainment at the "Yamên must also be accepted "under international law". Sun-yi-wên also most positively denied that the Mongol Princes were ever entertained at the Dzu-kuang-ko.

The conference came finally to an end, after having lasted more than three hours, by the Yamên requesting Mr. von Brandt to place the question of the Dzu-kuang-ko before his colleagues, which he promised to do, holding out, however, no hope of a change in the views of the foreign Representatives, while the Yamên, on their part, being asked to take into consideration the choice of another place declared their inability to do so.

Enclosure No. 4 in No. 1250

No. 6/1891.
d Feb. 4th 1891

(Copy) Protocol

of the meeting of Representatives of Treaty Powers held at the German Legation on Feb. 1st 1891, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Present: the Representatives of Belgium, France, the German Empire, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Russia and the United States.

Mr. von Brandt having read the annexed memorandum on his interview with the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên on Jan. 31st, his action was approved. He pointed out at the same time that the concession concerning audiences to be granted Representatives arriving in future was only an apparent one, the same concession having been made in exactly the same terms as now and to the foreign Representatives in 1873, on the occasion of the discussion of the Yamên's first program; besides it

it had been acted upon in 1874 when four foreign Representatives had been received in separate audiences. The Yamên had, therefore, played only it's usual game, ignoring former concessions in order to be able to make them again and then point to them as a proof of the Yamên's willingness to go as far as possible and the unreasonableness of the foreign negotiators.

After some discussion among the Representatives, Mr. von Brandt was instructed to tell the Yamên at their next meeting that the idea of wishing to dictate in any manner to His Majesty was very far from the minds of the foreign Representatives, but that it was their duty, at the same time, to see that nothing derogatory to the countries they represent took place in any ceremony in which they were called upon to take part, and that for the reasons

already

already given to the Yamên the Tzu-Kuang-Ko was unacceptable. Mr. von Brandt was further instructed, in order that a clear insight might be gained into the situation, to place at the next meeting before the Yamên the other objections and demands of the Foreign Representatives; i.e. with regard to the situation of the table upon which the letters of credence are to be placed, the door through which the Representatives are to pass and the necessity of not keeping them waiting for the audience for any length of time when once in the grounds of the palace.

The meeting then separated.

(Signed) M von Brandt
Charles Denby
John Waldham
K. Otori
A. Panza
J. K. Ferguson
G. de Urbain
C. Kleinénow
P. Rietelleuber
Charles Midee

Enclosure No 5 in No 125

is. No 9/1891.
ed Feb. 14 1891.

(Copy) Memorandum

on the meeting held at the Tsungli Yamên on Feb. 5th 1891, between the Chinese Ministers Prince Ch'ing, Sun-yi-wên and Chang Yin-huan, and Mr von Brandt, the latter in the name of and for the other Representatives of Treaty Powers.

After the exchange of some complimentary remarks, Mr von Brandt opened the conference by saying that before entering upon any details he wished to place a general statement before the Prince and Ministers present. In a foreign country an envoy, on arriving, placed a copy of his credentials into the hands of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and asked for an audience from the sovereign or ruler of the country in order to present the original. At the audience a few days afterwards he pronounced a short complimentary

complimentary speech and placed his letter of credence into the hands of the sovereign or ruler, who replied by a few words after which the envoy retired. It was only after this ceremony had been gone through with that the envoy was in a position to assume his official duties. That was the procedure in foreign countries which the Yamên declared would not be followed in China. The Chinese ceremonial was equally unacceptable to the foreign Representatives; a mutual understanding ought, therefore, to be arrived at, in which, while nothing was further from the minds of the Representatives than to presume to dictate in any way to His Majesty, it was their duty to see that nothing occurred that was offensive to the dignity of the countries they had the honor to represent. The Prince replied to

this

this that the Yamen was very anxious on their part too that nothing should be asked of the foreign Representatives which they might consider as derogatory to their countries' dignity; on the other hand the same rule held good for China. The other day, after Mr. von Brandt had left, he and his colleagues had found themselves in a great difficulty about the hall in which the audience was to take place; the hall was, so to say, fixed upon by the imperial edict and all the preparations had been made in it; he, therefore, proposed that the present audience should take place in the Tzu-Kuang-Ko, while for the next one a new hall should be provided in the western garden. Mr. von Brandt said that he would submit this proposal to his colleagues. Prince Ch'ing then stated that it would certainly be best that they should

know

know at once all the objections the foreign Representatives might have to the ceremonial observed in 1873; he hoped that they would not be very numerous as the Yamên had already made a great many concessions, especially with regard to the reception of Representatives arriving after the audience and the admission of Secretaries of Legation and interpreters. Mr. von Brandt replied that the arrangements arrived at could hardly be considered as concessions on the part of the Yamên, the reception of Representatives arriving after the audience having already been discussed and settled in 1873 and acted upon in 1874, while the admission of Secretaries of Legation and interpreters was the natural result of the admission of Chinese functionaries of the same rank to audiences elsewhere. Mr von Brandt

proceed

proceeded then to explain the objections of the foreign Representatives with regard to the placing of the letters of credence on the yellow table, of having to wait before the audience and of entering the hall by the western entrance. A long discussion then ensued upon the question where the foreign Representatives ought to place their letters of credence, the members of the Yamên maintaining that the rule adopted in 1873 ought to be followed also on this occasion, the table being placed not so very far from the throne and within the hall, Prince Ch'ing also stating in the course of the conversation that papers presented by the highest officials in the Empire were equally placed upon a table, the table for the audience being a specially prepared one, only to be used on such occasions, from which they

were

were taken by the chief chamberlain and handed to the Emperor. This last statement Prince Ch'ing tried afterwards very much to disown, but it gives undoubtedly the true state of affairs and proves that the Chinese have attempted and attempt to treat letters from foreign sovereigns and rulers as any other state papers or reports placed before the Emperor. On the other hand, the placing of the table within the hall is, in the eyes of the Chinese, already a considerable concession, the table upon which the letters from the rulers of subject nations are deposited being placed outside the audience hall. Prince Ch'ing also repeated the proposal made in 1873, that, if the foreign Representatives objected to their letters of credence remaining on the table, he could take them from the table and place them in

-6

the hands of the Emperor, of course kneeling, a proposal which Mr. von Brandt rejected on the same grounds which had already in 1873 caused the then Representation not to accept it. Mr. von Brandt told the Chinese Ministers that the proper way of transmitting a letter from one sovereign or ruler to another was to place it directly in the hands of the latter, but, as Chinese ceremonial appeared not to admit of this being done, his colleagues and he himself would content themselves with placing their letters of credence on a table near enough to the throne that His Majesty, if so inclined, could take the letter with his own hands. Asked to explain how he thought the ceremony ought to be gone through, Mr. von Brandt said that he proposed to walk up to the place where the Representatives had formerly stood, then stop,

make

make a short speech, then advance, place his letter of credence upon the table and retire to the former place there to listen to the Emperor's answer.

The conversation on this point having lasted for over an hour without making any progress, the Chinese Ministers asked Mr. von Brandt to place their objections before his colleagues and to request them to take the matter once more into consideration; Mr. von Brandt replied that he would do so with pleasure, but, that he thought he could hold out very little hope that his colleagues would change their minds on the subject; with regard to himself, he could already tell them today that he would not hand over his letter of credence in other way than in the one proposed by himself. The Chinese Ministers upon

upon this asked him then again to write a despatch to the Yamên on the subject, to which he replied that he had strong objections to writing on subjects under discussion, but that he would take the Yamên's proposal into consideration and might perhaps find a way to comply with it. In the course of the before mentioned conversation Sun-yi-wên asked suddenly "and how about the feast at the Yamên?", to which Mr. von Brandt replied that his colleagues and he himself were accustomed to be received at the table of the sovereign who did them the honor to have them invited, but that if all the other questions were settled satisfactorily means might be found of accepting the invitation of the Yamên for once. Mr. von Brandt then asked what were the views of the Yamên on the other

points

points mentioned by him, to which the Prince replied that the Representatives would have to wait a short time before going to the audience, a little friendly conversation and collation having to precede the reception by the Emperor, if an hour from the moment the Representatives reached the outer gate to their reception by the Emperor seemed too much, so that if the audience were fixed for noon, the Ministers would arrive at 11 A. M. Mr. von Brandt replied that he would place the matter before his colleagues and thought that no objection would be raised against the Yamên's proposals. Asked which gate the foreign Representatives claimed, Mr. von Brandt stated that it was the first to the right of the middle gate from outwards, or, in the case of the Tzu-Kuang-Ko, the

first

first to the east; the Ministers immediately agreed to the proposal, Prince Ch'ing mentioning in an undertone to Sun-yi-wên that it was the proper one. The gate having been pointed out on a map no misunderstanding can exist on the point. Prince Ch'ing then added laughingly "of course the Ministers refuse to come to a rehearsal of the ceremony", to which Mr. von Brandt replied in the same tone; "Certainly".

The Prince then remarked that all points seemed to be arranged with the exception of that of the table on which the letters of credence were to be placed, to which Mr. von Brandt replied that some little points to which his colleagues had drawn his attention remained still to be settled. It was, of course, understood that attachés

were

were to accompany their chiefs as well as the Secretaries of Legation. The Prince objected to this, counting upon his fingers, "One minister, one secretary of Legation, one interpreter, making altogether three persons to be admitted from each Legation". Mr. von Brandt pointing out that at some of the Legations there were more than one Secretary of Legation, the Prince gave way on this point, still maintaining, however, his objections to the attachés, who he said would swell the number of persons to be admitted too much. Mr. von Brandt remarked that to his knowledge there were attachés only to two of the Legations, at the French, one and at the Japanese one, and that there would be only two or three of them, to which the Prince replied, "yes, but there may be more appointed afterwards".

Mr.

Mr. von Brandt then said that, as the question now stood, the interpreters of six of the Legations would be admitted to the audience, while the interpreter of the seventh Legation would be present at the reception. There remained three Legations represented by Chargés d'Affaires of which two had interpreters; their chiefs desired very much that they should be allowed to assist at the general reception.

The Prince replied that they would be received in the audiences when their chiefs had letters of credence to present.

The conference then closed, after it had lasted two hours and a half, Mr. von Brandt recommending the Chinese Ministers to take the wishes of his colleagues with regard to the attachés and interpreters into further favorable consideration. It must be remarked

that

that the tone of the Chinese Ministers was from the beginning to the end of the conference an exceedingly friendly and amiable one, quite different from the disagreeable and assuming way in which they had acted at the last meeting.

Enclosure No 6 in No 125

Mis. No 15/1891.

(Copy) Peking, Feb. 7th 1891.

To His Highness, Prince Ch'ing,
President of the Tungli Yamên:

Your Highness:

I have taken the first opportunity to place before my colleagues, the Representatives of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain and the United States, the results of the conference held at the Yamên on the 5th inst.

My colleagues and myself are of opinion that the only way to transmit the letters from our sovereigns or rulers to His Majesty the Emperor, containing our credentials would be to place them either into the hands of His Majesty, as is done everywhere else, or on a table placed so near to the throne and so high that His Majesty could, if he chose, take

the

the letter with his own hands.
My colleagues and myself are willing to agree to the second alternative.

All the other points being very nearly arranged it would want only one more conference to settle them definitively.

According to His Majesty's wish I also enclose a list of the secretaries, military attachés, attachés and first interpreters of the foreign Legations now present at Peking.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Highness the assurance of my highest consideration.

(s'g'd) Brandt.

Approuvé:

Charles Denby
John Walsham
K. Otori
A. Pansa
J. K. Ferguson
Y. de Unibari
C. Kleimenow
P. Rietel Lembes
Charles Michel.

Wieckhofer

No 1253.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 14 1891

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 26th, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Duplicate account for
Contingent Expenses for Quarter
ending December 31st, 1890.

No 1253 One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 26th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward duplicate statement of my account for Contingent Expenses for the quarter ending December 31st, 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1— Duplicate Statement as above.

Kirkpatrick

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 14 1891

No 1254.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 26th, 1891.

Wm. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Duplicate Account for Loss
by Exchange for quarter
Ending December 31st, 1890.

No. 1254. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 26th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you Enclosed duplicate statement of my account for loss by Exchange for the quarter ending December 31st, 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate account as above.

64 to file

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 13 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 14 1891

No. 1255

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 27, 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledging despatches.

No. 1255.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 27. 1891

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches Nos. 571 and 572 of the 16th and 19th of December last, and 573 of January 2d.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 21 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
APR 22 1891

No. 1256

Acct. 23 Aff. '91. Mexico

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 28. 1891

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 22 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Copy

Subject
The Audience.

Synopsis

Copies of papers enclosed showing the final arrangements for the audience and reception.

No. 1256.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 28. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, copies of the following papers, relating to the "audience question":

Un aide mémoire delivered by Mr. von Brandt to the Foreign Office setting forth the propositions of the Foreign Representatives as to the manner

of

of holding the audience;
2/1256 a Protocol of a meeting
of the Foreign Representatives
at the German Legation
3/256 February 18; a memorandum
of the Conference held at
the Tsung li Yamên Febry.
4/1256 15. 1891; a memorandum
of a meeting held at the
Tsung. li Yamên, Febry. 19.
1891, between the Ministers
of the Yamên and Mr.
von Brandt on the part
of the Foreign Representatives
5/1256 a Protocol regulating the
forms and ceremonies to be
observed at the audience
and reception agreed on
Febry. 22. 1891, by the Ministers

of

of the Foreign Office and the Foreign Representatives. It will be seen that proper and satisfactory arrangements have been concluded for the holding of the Audience and a subsequent reception of the whole Diplomatic Body.

The Foreign Ministers receded in two particulars from their first demands as to ceremonial. They consented to be received in the same hall in which the audience was had in 1873 - the Tzu Kuang-Ko, or "Hall of Purplish Brightness." The Foreign Community mostly

protested

protested against the use of this hall because it was alleged that it had been generally used for the reception of Koreans, Mongols, and other casual races. I preferred to accept this hall rather than to create serious difficulties at this time. By reference to page 406 of the "Life and Letters" of Doctor S. S. Williams you will see that he characterizes the main objection to the use of this hall as "a petty scruple" and speaks highly of the adaption of the hall to purposes —

of

of audience. This opinion had some influence on me, and besides, I recognized that in the general the head of a state has the right to select the place in which he will receive Foreign Envoys. The Chinese Ministers agreed that future receptions should be held in another hall and the compromise was accepted. The other point conceded was the mode of the delivery of the "Letters of Credence" The Foreign Representatives contended that these Letters should

be

be delivered by themselves into the hands of the Emperor himself. But, as according to Chinese usage no person can present a letter to the Emperor without kneeling, and as we refused to kneel, we were willing to place our Letters on a table so close to the Emperor that he might take them in his hand if he chose to do so. The Chinese Ministers replied that no person except the Princes of the blood could be allowed to ascend the platform on which the Throne was placed. The matter was compromised

as follows: After reading his address the Envoy will advance to the foot of the middle steps, bearing his "Letter of Credence," which he will hand to Prince Ching (President of the Foreign Office) who will descend by one of the side steps to receive it. The Prince will then ascend the platform and place the "Letter of Credence," he standing and not kneeling, on a small table placed before the Throne. It is apparent that Prince Ching, being in some sense our agent, could not kneel while

holding

holding our Letters. If the Emperor addresses him after he has parted with the Letters, he may kneel as much as etiquette may require. A comparison between the forms now agreed on and those followed in 1873 will show that substantial progress has been made in the eighteen years that have elapsed. For an account of the audience in 1873 see Foreign Relations 1873 p. 198 and following. Some points of progress are the following: Separate audiences are granted and each Minister takes

his

his interpreter, instead of all going together with one interpreter; Foreign Representatives are not to be kept purposely waiting as was done before; Letters of Credence are to be placed on a table close to the Throne instead of on a table ten or twelve pces from the Throne as before; the whole Diplomatic Body, including Chargés d'affaires, Secretaries, attachés, and interpreters are to be received after the separate audiences of the Ministers having letters of Credence are concluded. There was no general reception

before.

before. Audiences are to be granted, also, for the presentation of "Letters of Recall", and new credentials or other autograph letters from Sovereigns or Rulers. If Mr. Low could truthfully say in his despatch No. 79 of July 10. 1873, found at p. 198 For. Rels. 1873, that the audience of that year was "an important step in advance, the most important that the Chinese Government has ever taken except when compelled by force of arms," the Minister now at Peking may rightfully claim that the result

of

of their arduous and lengthy discussions is much more important. The persistence of the ministers, and the ability of the Dean, who personally conducted the negotiations, have secured the adoption, as nearly as Chinese law and usage permitted, of the ceremonial generally observed in Europe and America.
I do not deem it necessary to enter upon any discussion as to the effect on China or elsewhere of this wide departure from ancient usage in this country.
It is hoped and believed

that

that the public recognition by the Chinese Government of the right of audience, implying as it does the equality of each Foreign Nation with China, will serve as a stepping stone to a marked improvement in the relations between China and the Treaty Powers. The audience, it is supposed, will be had in about a week. I shall present the letters of credence that I received in 1885. Should it be the pleasure of the President to address to the Emperor of China, any communication

at

at this time, it will be delivered by me in special audience either at the time that it is received, or afterwards when the Ministers of Russia, France, Belgium, and Spain shall be granted an audience.

When I wrote my despatch No. 1234 of Jany 24. suggesting that a new Letter of Credence be sent me, I had the best reasons to suppose that the audience would be postponed, and that a "Letter" might reach me in time. But the course of events has made that impossible. I make

no

No suggestions now as to the Sending of a new Letter of Credence, but leave the question to the better judgement of the President and yourself.

Trusting that my conduct in all this Negotiation will meet with your approval,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure No. 1 Aide mémoire.

" " 2. Ministers' Protocol.

" " 3. Memo. of Conference.

" " 4. Doyen and Doyen.

" " 5. Ceremonial agreed on.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1256.

Misc. No. 14

Aide Mémoire

The members of the Tsungli Yamen having, in their recent discussions with the Minister of the German Empire about the way in which the audience ought to take place, referred more than once to the necessity of making very careful arrangements, so that they might serve as precedents for future audiences and receptions, the foreign Representatives, therefore, with all due respect to the Sovereign, and wishing to facilitate the work of the Yamen in preparing their report to the throne, have thought it desirable and necessary to place before the Yamen some notes on the points which they consider

indispensable,

indispensable, if a satisfactory understanding shall be arrived at to serve as a precedent for the future. They are willing to forego for the moment some of the most important rights and privileges which are granted to them by International law and courtesy, but they are not in a position to abandon any of the principles upon which the comity of nations reposes. They wish neither to hurry nor to press the Tsungli Yamên and, in his interviews with the Chinese Ministers, the Minister of the German Empire has more than once indicated the means by which a decision in the audience question could be postponed for some time; but, while the foreign Representatives are perfectly willing to go as far

as

as possible in their endeavors to meet the Japanese views, limits to their compliance are imposed upon them by the rules that regulate the intercourse of independent nations and these limits are indicated in the following notes.

Foreign Representatives furnished with letters of credence arriving at Peking to be received by His Majesty in separate audiences after having given copies of their credentials to the Tsungli Yamen and asked for an audience to present the originals thereof; the foreign Representatives being each one accompanied by his own interpreter. The same rule to hold good for the presentation of letters of recall and new credentials

or

or other autograph letters from Sovereigns or rulers. At the Yearly or other general receptions the foreign Representatives to be accompanied by the Secretaries and attachés of their Legations, the military and naval attachés and their interpreters.

Foreign Representatives are every where received in the apartments of the palaces usually employed for audiences and solemn receptions. This is the general rule - For this reason and on account of the disrepute into which, after the Audience in 1873 the Tzu-Hsiang-Ko had got, and without pretending in the slightest way to dictate to the Sovereign, the foreign Representatives objected to the use of that Hall. Upon the declaration

of

of the Daimyo Yamen that the Izzo Kuang-su had been already indicated in the Imperial Edict and that all preparations for the reception of the foreign Representatives had been made in it, but that in future another suitable locality should be designated for the reception of the foreign Representatives, the latter declared that for this once they are willing to overlook the objections existing against the Izzo-Kuang-su. They must, however, state most positively that they will not accept any arrangement by which their right of being received in the apartments generally used for audiences and solemn receptions was definitely precluded.

With

With regard to the form of handing over autograph letters of Sovereigns and Rulers and letters of credence or recall, the one generally and exclusively used is that of placing them personally into the hands of the Sovereign or Ruler to whom they are addressed. Taking into consideration the difference of Chinese etiquette the foreign Representatives are willing to place their letters of credence on a table placed so near to the Throne and so high that His Majesty could, if he chose take the letters with his own hand. The foreign Representatives not to be kept waiting for any length of time, after their arrival on the ground, before they are admitted to the Imperial

presence

presence. The foreign Representatives and their staff to enter through the door to the right of the middle one from the outside. The rehearsal of the ceremony to be omitted.

Enclosure No 3 in No 1

Mis. No 16/1891.
Rec'd. Feb. 23rd

Memorandum

of the conference held at the Tsung-li Yamên on Feb. 15th 1891, between the Chinese Ministers Prince Ch'ing, Hsü Yen-chen, Sun Yi-wên, Hsü Yun-i and Chang Yin-huan and Mr. von Brandt, the latter for the Representatives of the treaty powers. Hsü Yun-i left after the first hour.

Prince Ch'ing opened the conference by stating that he and his colleagues had received the despatch which Mr. von Brandt had addressed to them in the name of all the foreign Representatives, on the 7th inst., on the subject of the manner in which the letters of credence were to be presented. There were, however, material reasons which rendered the acceptance of the proposal made in this despatch impossible. The throne was placed upon an elevated

platform

platform and upon this nobody but the Princes of the Blood, Grand Chamberlains* were admitted and would be admitted. The table upon which the letters of credence were to be deposited might be approached nearer to the platform.

Mr. von Brandt having refused to agree to this proposal and having again explained the reasons which obliged the foreign Representatives to insist upon the mode of procedure as laid down in the despatch of Feb. 7th, a long and to some extent desultory conversation took place in which Prince Ch'ing made, one after the other, the following proposals: viz., that the foreign Representatives should place their credentials upon the table, from which he, the Prince, would take them and present them kneeling to the Emperor; or, that no table should be placed before the

* Yi chien ta chen, Amban, Minister of the Presence

Enclosure 2 in No 1256

No 15.

Protocol

of the meeting held at the German Legation on Feb. 18th 1891.

Present:

The Representatives of Belgium, France, the German Empire, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, Spain the United States.

Mr. von Brandt having read the annexed memorandum of his conference with the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên on the 15th inst., the foreign Representatives were of opinion that it would be useless to continue a desultory discussion especially as the Yamên had more than once in the course of these meetings with Mr. von Brandt stated that the rules now to be agreed on ought to serve as a precedent for future audiences and general receptions. It was then decided that in order to bring the Yamên to a decision or to safeguard at least the principles

principles for which the Representatives were contending a statement of these principles should be placed before the Chinese Ministers and given to them at their request in the form of an aide-memoire.

Should this step not produce the desired effect Mr. von Brandt was to tell the Yamên that the foreign Representatives could see no advantage in continuing the discussion and would wait for further communication from the Yamên.

Mr. von Brandt was at the same time authorized to state to the Chinese Ministers that the foreign Representatives considered it as a condition sine qua non of their acceptance of any arrangement that the mention of the "western gardens" as the locality where the hall for future audiences or receptions

would

would be situated should be omitted from such arangements, he was to add that such mention in an impirial edict would be considered as a breach of good faith by the foreign Representatives and would cause them to regard all arrangements arrived at so far as nul et non avenu. With regard to the question of presentation of the letters of credence several modifications of the original demand of the foreign Representatives were proposed and discussed; it was finally agreed upon to propose to the Chinese Ministers that the foreign Envoys having advanced to the foot of the steps leading to the platform Prince Ch'ing might come down the steps, receive the letters of credence from the hand of the Envoy and place them upon a table placed somewhere

somewhere upon the platform doing this, however, while standing and not kneeling.

As a last alternative it was suggested that it might even perhaps be admissible to arrange the question so that the letters of credence should be deposited by their bearers upon a small table placed as near as possible to the platform.

The conference then separated.

(s'g'd) M v. Brandt
Charles Denby
John Waltham
K. Otori
A. Pansa
H.T. Ferguson
R.C. de Uribari
C. Kleimenow
P. Rietschoten
Chas. Miches

the Representatives, but a small one near to the platform, the Prince would have the letters of credence from the hands of the Representatives and place them standing upon this small table, after having done which he would go and kneel near the Emperor's throne; or finally, that the table could be approached quite near to the middle steps leading to the platform, but leaving a passage between it and the steps, the foreign Representatives placing their letters of credence upon the table thus situated.

Mr. von Brandt having declared all these propositions unacceptable, a further conversation ensued in the course of which Mr. von Brandt remarked that he found himself in a difficulty talking about a place which he had never seen and asked if there would be any objection to his seeing the Tzu Kuang Ko. This the Prince

declared

declared to be utterly inadmissible as the hall was in the neighborhood of the imperial residences. The other Chinese Ministers joined in this declaration stating that they themselves had never been in the Fu Kuang Ko. In making this statement they evidently overlooked the fact that the hall was not one generally used for audiences and receptions. The Prince, finally, offered to send Mr. von Brandt the exact measurements of the hall. A plan executed according to these measures received from the Yamên on the 16th instant is annexed.

The discussion on the question of the presenting of the letters of credence having produced no result, Mr. von Brandt remarked that he had placed the Yamên's proposals with regard to the place in which the reception was

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to take place before his colleagues and he was now in a position to inform the Prince and Ministers of the decision arrived at. While taking the Chinese text of this decision from Mr. von Brandt's hand Prince Ch'ing remarked that he had forgotten the other day to say that while separate audiences might take place in other halls the Tzu Kuang Ko ought to be reserved for the New Year's reception, no other hall being so large, so convenient and so beautiful. Mr. von Brandt replied that this declaration of the Prince coming a week after the former discussion of the point was not acceptable and that he could only refer the Prince to the paper placed in his hands which embraced the whole question.

Immediately after having looked at the paper, which ran thus: "Upon the statement made

by

"by the Tsung-li Yamên that the
"Tzu Kuang Ko had already
"been designated as reception hall
"by the imperial edict and
"that besides all the preparations
"for receiving the foreign Representatives
"in it had been made, but that
"in future another suitable
"place should be designated for
"the reception of the foreign
"Representatives, the latter withdrew
"for this once their objections
"against the Tzu Kuang Ko",
Prince Ch'ing remarked that
the words "in the western garden"
were left out after the mention
of a suitable place to be provided
for. Upon the reply of Mr. von Brandt
that the form of the acceptance
of the Yamên's proposal as presented
by him was the result of an
unanimous decision of the foreign
Representatives and that he had
neither the power to discuss it
nor to accept any alteration of

it

it, the Chinese Ministers showed great, probably, at least, artificial indignation and declared that they would never accept the omission of the words "in the western gardens" and that what was offered to them now was quite contrary to what they had proposed at the last meeting.

Mr. von Brandt then shortly capitulated what had passed on this subject during the different meetings at the Yamên. That in the first instance, he had explained to the Ministers the objections existing in the minds of the foreign Representatives against the Tzu Kuang Ko which rendered it unacceptable as the audience hall; that at the next meeting the Prince and Ministers, after giving their reasons why the Tzu Kuang Ko ought to be accepted for this once, had promised that for the future another place should be provided

for

for in the western gardens, and that he, Mr. von Brandt, had in reply to this simply stated that he would not pronounce himself on this proposal but would submit it to his colleagues. Prince Ching having recognized the exactness of this statement, Mr. von Brandt continued that the interminable discussion upon questions which had been regulated and settled long ago by international law and courtesy was not only becoming very tiresome but seemed perfectly useless. In the course of the discussion the Chinese Ministers had again spoken of the audience as of an act of great condescension on the part of the Emperor. With all due respect to His Majesty, he had to repeat what he had said before that while he and his colleagues felt very much honored by His

Majesty's

Majesty's intentions, their reception was not a question of condescension but of right. If the exercise of this right had not been claimed by the treaty powers it had been in order not to embarass the Chinese Government and to give them ample time and opportunity to accustom themselves to ideas and facts which at first might have appeared rather strange to them. Even now his colleagues and himself were far from wishing to press upon or seem to hurry on the Yamên; he had pointed out before to the Ministers by what means a decision in the question might be easily postponed for some time and he could only repeat that he and his colleagues were perfectly willing to accept a postponement. On the other hand declarations that such or such a thing was impossible in China had no effect upon him; he had

heard

heard them too often belied by the facts to attach much importance to them; he would draw the attention of the Yamên only to what had been said and written by themselves about telegraphs and railways and if, in these and other questions, so much progress had been made notwithstanding all the former declarations of the Government, he could not understand why in other points they should obstinately cling to antiquated forms unless the inadmissible idea of a superiority of China over other nations was connected with them.

This the Prince denied most emphatically adding at the same time that he did not understand why so many difficulties were raised by the foreign Representatives; the form in which the audience had taken place in 1873 having satisfied everyone and it having been

been originally the intention of the Yamên to have the new audience exactly in the same manner as the former one; at the request of the foreign Representatives the Yamên had made already a great many concessions but it looked as if the Representatives felt bound to create difficulties for the Yamên; the question of the place in which the audiences were to take place was in any case decided by imperial edict; a thorough discussion of all other points was so much more necessary as the arrangements for this audience ought to be made so as to serve as precedent for future occasions.

Mr. von Brandt replied that this was a reason more why the Representatives should insist that the arrangements contained nothing contrary to the dignity of the nations they represented; the Prince was, however, greatly

mistaken

mistaken if he supposed that the form under which the audiences had taken place in 1873 and '74 had given general satisfaction; there was not one of the Representatives then received who had not again and again repeated that great changes were necessary in the form in which these audiences had taken place and the judgement pronounced by foreign and Chinese public opinion alike had ratified that verdict. It was, therefore, the duty of the present Representatives to see that the new audiences produced a better effect than the former ones.

After some further resultless conversation the conference, which had lasted very nearly three hours and a half, broke up, another meeting being arranged for the 19th inst.

(Sig'd) M. v. Brandt.

Mis No. 17/1891

Enclosure 4 in No. 1250

Memorandum

of the meeting held at the Tsungli Yamên on Feb. 19th 1891.

Present:

the Chinese Ministers Prince Ch'ing, Sun Yi-wên, Liao Shou-hêng and Tsêng Yung-i, and Mr. von Brandt, the latter on the part of and for the foreign Representatives.

After the exchange of some complimentary remarks, Mr. von Brandt opened the conference by stating that the subject which had occupied them for some time, the audience question, might be considered from the two different points of view - that of principle and that of convenience. The attitude observed by the Yamên had obliged his colleagues and himself to take into more serious consideration than had been their intention originally the former view: he proposed now

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to place before the Ministers the principle, which, according to the opinion of his colleagues and himself, ought to rule the question; he would then proceed to explain the concessions the foreign Representatives were willing to make for the sake of convenience, but he requested the Prince and Ministers to listen patiently and attentively to what he had to say as much might depend upon the result of today's conference.

The contents of the aide-memoire agreed upon between the foreign Representatives at their meeting of the 17th inst., were then placed before the Prince and Ministers and at their express desire a copy of it was given to them.

The Prince and Ministers read the paper very carefully without, however, making any other remarks than that most

of the points had been already agreed upon.

Mr. von Brandt then continued saying that one of the points to be settled was the place where the audience was to take place: as was stated in the aide-memoire audiences were generally given in certain apartments of the palace set aside for that purpose: his colleagues and he himself had, in order to avoid lengthy controversies, foregone until now to bring that point forward, but they had, on the other hand, the right to expect that nothing would be done by the Chinese Ministers which might seem to do away with the principle itself. It was for this reason that they had proposed that all mention of the place in which audiences were to take place in future should be omitted. Prince Ching replied that the question would have

to

to be decided by an imperial edict, to which Mr. von Brandt answered that as the edict would have to be prepared by the Yamen, it would be very easy for that body to leave out the mention of the western garden. This omission was a conditio sine qua non and he was authorized by his colleagues to state that the mention of the "western gardens" as the future place of receptions or audiences, even in an imperial edict, would be considered by his colleagues as a breach of good faith and would cause his colleagues and himself to consider the whole arrangement so far agreed upon as nul et non avenu.

After some show of resistance, during which Sun Yü-wên proposed that the "western gardens" might be inserted into an imperial edict which would appear only

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in a court edition of the Gazette, the Prince gave way stating repeatedly and most positively that no mention of the place to be used in future would be made in an edict or elsewhere.

Mr. von Brandt then continued stating that the objections raised by the Yamên against the foreign Representatives mounting upon the platform on which the throne stood had been taken into consideration by his colleagues and himself and he was prepared to make another proposal which to him, at least seemed to obviate the difficulty.

The foreign Envoy, after having delivered his address, should advance to the steps of the platform when Prince Ch'ing would come down from it, receive from the hands of the Envoy this letters of credence, remount upon the platform and place them upon a small table in the immediate

neighborhood

neighborhood of the throne; this being done, of course, standing and not kneeling.

To this proposal Prince Ch'ing agreed stating only that he would have to come down one of the side steps, nobody but the Emperor being allowed to pass over the middle steps; he also stated that the table would be placed immediately before the Emperor's throne.

Mr. von Brandt then refering to the presence of the military, naval and diplomatic attaché's and interpreters at the general reception, Prince Ch'ing objected stating that they had never heard before of military attaché's and that the admission of all the persons mentioned to the general reception would make the number of persons admitted too large. Mr. von Brandt pointed out that Gen.l Tch'êng Ki-tong had

had at Berlin at least been presented and received as military attaché and that the Prince himself had mentioned for each legation one minister, one secretary and one interpreter, which would make for ten legations thirty persons, while all the persons proposed to be received were thirty one.

After some resistance the Prince gave way also on this point saying that an imperial edict would have to be issued on the subject.

Mr. von Brandt pointing out that the persons not having been received in special audience by His Majesty ought to be presented to the Emperor at the general reception, this proposal evidently distressed the Chinese very much, as they seemed to have no idea how such a ceremony would be gone through. Finally the Prince proposed that a list showing the place, name and rank of each person present should be presented

to

to His Majesty, which Mr. von Brandt accepted under the condition that the four chargés d'affaires should be separately presented to His Majesty to which the Prince agreed.

The rest of the conference, which lasted a little over an hour and a half, was taken up by a conversation about certain points of etiquette, the number of bows to be made etc., Sun Yi-wên suggested that as one of the Envoys might forget to make his bow at the proper place, the member of the Yamên accompanying him ought to pull him by the sleeve; he took, also, great pains to explain that the Ministers of the Yamên present at the audience had to stand straight in the presence of the Emperor and could not salute the foreign Envoys and he seemed to feel considerably relieved when he was told that he was not expected to do so.

Prince

Prince Ch'ing then mentioned the banquet to be given to the foreign Representatives by order and in the name of His Majesty, and Mr. von Brandt replied that everything having been settled so satisfactorily he had no doubt that his colleagues would accept it as willingly as himself.

The conference then broke up, another one being arranged for the 22nd inst., in order to settle the last details of the programme.

(Sgd) M. v. Brandt.

Mis No 18/1891. Enclosure 5. in No 1256

Rec'd Feb. 24. 1891.

Foreign Representatives furnished with letters of credence arriving at Peking to be received by His Majesty in separate audiences after having given copies of their credentials to the Tsungli Yamên and asked for an audience to present the original thereof, the foreign Representatives on these occasions to be accompanied by their own interpreters.

The same rule to hold good for the presentation of letters of recall and new credentials, or other autograph letters from sovereigns or rulers.

Reasons existing which render the use of the Tzu Kuang Ko as an audience or reception hall undesirable another suitable place will be provided for future audiences and receptions. The Ministers of the Yamên having declared that the Tzu Kuang Ko had already been designated

by

by His Majesty and all preparations for the reception of the foreign Representatives made in it, the latter are willing to forego for this time their objections against the Tzu Kuang Ko.

The foreign Representatives not to be kept waiting for any length of time after their arrival on the ground before being admitted to the imperial presence.

The foreign Representatives and their suite to enter through the door to the right of the middle one from the outside.

Special arrangements for the separate audiences:

No table will be placed in the audience halls.

The foreign Envoy will bow for the first time after having passed through the door of the audience hall, he will bow a

record

second time half way between the door and the place where he will take up his position (between the dragon pillars) and a third time when he has reached this place.

He will then read his address (of which and his credentials a copy and a translation will have been handed to the Yamên before the audience) after which the interpreter who accompanies him will read the translation of the address.

After this he will advance to the foot of the middle steps bearing his letters of credence which he will hand to Prince Ch'ing, who will descend by one of the side steps and come up to him to receive them. Prince Ch'ing will then remount upon the platform by the same side steps and place the letters of credence, standing, upon a small table placed before the throne

throne: at that moment the foreign Envoy will bow and His Majesty will bow likewise thereby acknowledging to have received the letter of credence. The Envoy will then return to his former place between the dragon pillar where he will await the reply of His Majesty and answer such questions as His Majesty may be pleased to address him.

The audience being over the Envoy will withdraw, bowing at the same places where he did so on entering.

The interpreter will remain a little behind and to the left of his chief and will enter and leave the hall after him.

Special arrangements for the general reception:

The foreign Representatives will enter the hall according to their seniority each one being

followed

followed by his suite. The members of the diplomatic body will take up their position opposite the throne between the dragon pillars in three rows, the first composed of the chiefs of missions, the second of secretaries, military naval and other attachés, the third of the interpreters.

Prince Ch'ing will then present by name and separately the four chargés d'affaires to His Majesty.

After this presentation is over Mr. von Brandt, as Doyen of the diplomatic body will advance a little and read the congratulatory address of the diplomatic body, the translation of the same being read afterwards by Mr. Popoff in his quality of the oldest by seniority of the interpreters present.

This having been done Mr. von Brandt will return to his place when His Majesty will graciously reply to the address, the text

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of His Majestys reply being placed by Prince Ching in Mr. von Brandt's hands.

After a bow from His Majesty indicating that the reception is finished the Representatives and their suites will withdraw in the same manner in which they entered.

In entering the hall and advancing to the places to be occupied by the members of the diplomatic body the same number of bows and at the same places will be made as at the separate audiences; the same rule will be observed in withdrawing. The members of the diplomatic body having taken up their places will bow together to His Majesty, who will acknowledge their salutation by a bow.

The preceding arrangements have been agreed upon by

the

the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên
and the foreign Representatives
and signed by them on the 15th
of the 1st month of the 17th year
Kuangsü, 23rd February 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR14 1891

No 1257.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. February 28th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Duplicate furniture account.

One enclosure

No 1257.

Legation of the United States.

Peking February 28th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a duplicate statement of account of the amount expended for the purchase of furniture for this Legation, as authorized by your despatch No 566, of Dec. 2nd 1890.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

1. Statement of account.

McCurdy

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
★ APR 21 1891 ★
RECEIVED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 1 1891

No 1258.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 2nd 1891.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Ex-territorial jurisdiction in China

Synopsis
Reports a plan proposed by Mr. Ferguson to establish one court for all the treaty powers in each foreign settlement.

No 1258.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 2nd 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The question of exterritoriality has become an important question in the East and is destined day by day to attract the attention of eastern as well as western statesmen.

The right of exterritorial jurisdiction depends on treaty stipulations and will come up for consideration now and again whenever

whenever treaties with the eastern powers are sought to be modified.

Treaty stipulations granting to one state jurisdiction in another state are exceptions to the public rights which are enjoyed by all nations under international law. In eastern and semi-civilized countries the right of extraterritorial jurisdiction is a necessity for the protection of foreigners. In these countries western nations have demanded not only that their subjects or citizens shall enjoy the right of jurisdiction according to the laws of their countries but also that mixed

tribunals

tribunals shall be established to decide controversies between the natives and foreigners.

There exists at Shanghai a mixed court to which large jurisdiction has been accorded. It is presided over by a Chinese official having the rank of sub-prefect. He has general civil jurisdiction in the foreign city in all cases in which foreigners are plaintiffs and Chinese subjects are defendants. He has criminal jurisdiction over natives for offenses committed in the foreign city and may inflict Chinese punishments. A Consul or a deputy may sit with the magistrate at the hearing of cases.

There

There are other rules not necessary to be detailed here.

The extraterritorial provisions in our treaties with China are Art. XXI of the Treaty of 1844, Art. XI of the Treaty of 1858, and Art. IV of the Treaty of 1880.

The jurisdiction of the subjects of Great Britain and Ireland in the East is regulated by the "Orders in Council" enacted from time to time by Her Majesty's Government, in pursuance of the treaties. France, Germany and other nations have treaty stipulations similar to our own. It thus appears that there are in China as many courts as there are foreign representatives and that

each

each nationality is especially governed by its own laws administered by its own magistrates. The inconvenience of this system is great.

Mr. J. Helenus Ferguson, the Minister of the Pays Bas at Peking, has lately written a paper in the French language on the subject of jurisdiction and extemitoriality in China. It is the purpose of this despatch to bring one of his suggestions to your consideration, not for immediate use but for reference hereafter, should the question come up in connection with the modification of existing treaties.

In order to avoid the contradictory

results

results that must necessarily occur in the administration of so many distinct forms of judicature, Mr. Ferguson propores that a new convention be made with China, and Siam also, for the organization of international jurisdiction. He propores to establish a court of international justice sitting as an appeal court at Shanghai. He propores in addition to establish eight courts of original jurisdiction to be held at Tientsin, Shanghai, Chinkiang Kiukiang, Hankow, Foochow Amoy and Canton respectively. China and each one of the treaty powers is to have the right

to

to designate a member and a deputy for each tribunal of original jurisdiction and for the appelate court. The treaty powers are to have the right to agree that the decision of any number of members of these courts shall be binding.

These courts are to have jurisdiction of all civil cases between foreigners and jurisdiction over all criminal cases when crimes are committed by foreigners against foreigners or against Chinese, or by foreigners in complicity with Chinese. On some subjects such as marriage, divorce, probate matters, the jurisdiction of the consuls is preserved.

I omit mention of many practical details of the propored plan. The main idea is that in each of the settlements there should be one court organized and empowered to do all official work touching foreigners.

If the foreign powers could be brought to agree to some system like the one propored, it is plain that many advantages would flow from its operation. In time civil, commercial and marine codes, codes of practice and penal codes would be introduced. There would be trouble, of course, over the adoption of the language for the courts

but

but English would ultimately prevail.

The subject thus hinted at is too vast for mere problematical discussion. My present purpose is simply to bring to your attention a matter of judicial progress which in some distant day may be worthy of consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 21 1891
RECEIVED.

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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 22 1891

No 1259.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 4th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Copy & Gazette to Mr Schulow
Copy to Treasury Dept
Copy of Light House Publications
Copy to Hydrographic Bureau
Copy to Light House Board Treasury Dept
Ap. 22 91

Subject

Forwards Customs publications

No. 1259.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 4th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward by this mail under separate cover duplicate copies of the Customs Gazette, October-December 1890, and two copies of the List of Chinese Light-Houses, Light-Vessels, Buoys and Beacons for 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 21 1891
RECEIVED.
2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
APR 22 1891

No. 1260.

Legation of the United States
Peking, March 2. 1891.

Rec'd 28 Apr 91. Monroe

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 22 1891

Subject
The Audience.

Synopsis
Forwards Protocols and
Memorandum relating
to the audience question.

No. 1260.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 2. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose copies of the following documents, relating to the audience question:
A Protocol of the meeting of the Foreign Representatives held at the German Legation, February 13. 1891.
A Protocol of the meeting of the Foreign Representatives held at the German

Legation

Legation Febry. 21. 1891.

3/1260 A memorandum of the Conference held at the Tsungli Yamên Febry. 22. 1891.

4/1260 A Protocol of a meeting of the Foreign Representatives held at the German Legation Febry 28. 1891.

These papers with those that preceded them complete a full history of the treatment of the audience question. As they were necessarily parts of the records of this Legation, and as the archives in the State Department ought to correspond with the

archives

archives here, I deemed
it best to send a complete
copy of each paper.
Some of them it must be
admitted are voluminous,
but no one could foretell
at the outset what the
issue of the negotiations
would be. Foreign Govern-
ments and the whole
civilized world were ex-
pected to pass upon our
actions here. If the result
should have proved un-
favorable it was best to
lay before our respective
Governments a full report
of our action in order that
an intelligent judgement

might

might be pronounced thereon. I submit these reasons for pursuing the course I did.

The audience has been fixed for Thursday the 5th of this month.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Four enclosures.

No. 1. Meeting of Foreign Ministers Feby 13. 189

" 2. " " " " 21. 189

" 3. Conference at Yamen " 22. 189

" 4. Meeting of Foreign Ministers " 23. 189

Protocol

of the meeting of the foreign Representatives held on the 13th February 1891.

Present, the Representatives of Belgium, France, the German Empire, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, and the United States.

Mr. von Brandt on placing the Protocol of the last meeting, which had taken place on February 6, before his Colleagues, said that some of the remarks and additions with which the Protocol had come back to him might fairly

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he considered as representing more the views as held by some of the Representatives than as expressed by them at the meeting in question. He for his part had, however, no objection against embodying in the Protocol remarks and views brought forward if his Colleagues agreed to it.
As for himself the observations and statements added to the Protocol had proved to him that the difference of opinion between his Colleagues and himself was much greater than he had supposed it to be after the meeting of the 6th instant. In fact, all

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of his Colleagues had approved of the propositions made by Mr. Sawa, which might be resumed thus: that either a pledge should be obtained from the Yamên to the effect that future audiences would be held in the Palace, or if it were generally agreed that the request for a reception inside the Palace would at present be inadvisable that the Protocol to be signed between the Yamên and the Foreign Representatives should not mention the Western gardens, or any place in particular,

but

but simply declare that another Hall should be provided. With regard to the first point, Mr. von Brandt remarked that in his opinion there was little or no difference between demanding that the reception to take place now should be held in the Palace or asking that the next audience should take place there. The objections of the Chinese Ministers would be equally strong to both proposals and in his opinion was unsurmountable; he had already before expressed to his Colleagues his

opinion

opinion that it was highly inadvisable to demand to be received within the Palace proper as he felt certain that such demand would be refused by the Chinese while on the other hand once made it could and ought not to be abandoned by the Foreign Representatives. If such, however, was the case the question of the place of reception ought to be made the main issue as in Mr. Pauncefote's first proposal. He would, if his Colleagues in the face of the nearly absolute certainty of a refusal from

the

the Chinese Ministers decided to make the whole audience question depend upon that of the place of reception not separate himself from them though he was certain not only of a failure but also of not being approved very heartily by his Government, but as he had said before any such demand ought to be made as a condition "sine qua non" and, made, not abandoned on any pretext whatever. The second proposal of Mr. Pauncefote was one of practical management. A Protocol setting forth the conditions

under

under which the audience was to take place was considered, the draft of such Protocol would have to be drawn up either by the Foreign Negotiators or by the Chinese ones; in the first case it would be very easy to omit the mention of any particular place and if the Chinese did not object to this the question would be settled according to the wishes of the Foreign Representatives. But if, instead of this happening the Chinese inserted into their draft the mention of the Western gardens or insisted upon

upon the insertion of that phrase into the draft prepared by the Foreign Negotiator what was the latter to do? He could either attempt to parry the proposals by more or less unmeaning phrases each of which would render the Chinese more suspicious and obstinate or take the bull by the horn and declare that the phrase objected to ought to be omitted in order that the possibility of the choice of the Palace proper for the next audience might not be prejudiced, and thus the whole question of admittance to the Palace would be

opened

opened on a site since which would not allow the Foreign Representatives to make a condition "sine qua non" of it. Their position would therefore be a much more unfavorable one as if the Palace question had been made the principal one from the beginning and the Chinese being certainly aware of this too it would be nearly impossible that the Foreign Representatives should not be beaten on this point. Besides, Mr. von Brandt was of opinion that it was utterly indifferent if the mention of

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"in the Western gardens" was inserted into the Protocol or not. The question, if future audiences were to take place in the Palace proper, depended no wise upon a small ambiguity in a paper and still less so because the mental reservation it implied for the Palace in the minds of the Foreign Representatives would certainly exist just as much against it in the minds of the Chinese. The final solution of the question according to the wishes of the Foreign Representatives and the usages

of

of international comity
would be brought about
by the Chinese mind open-
ing itself more and more
to the necessities of the
political situation or by
one or more Governments
insisting upon compliance
with international customs.
These were his views. They
might be erroneous as
far as the amount of
assistance to be expected
from the Chinese was con-
cerned, but they imposed
upon him the duty to re-
quest his Colleagues to
select some body else to
conduct the further

negotiations

negotiations with the Yamên.
He felt that he would not
do justice to a program
which he considered as not
applicable to the case and
he did not wish to see
failure attributed to a
want of zeal or sympathy
on his part; he did not
desire to separate himself
from his Colleagues and
he was ready to give to the
Yamên any reason for
his non-continuance of the
negotiations which his
Colleagues might consider
as most favorable to this
course, but he thought at
the same time that

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the responsibility and the credit for the issue of the negotiations ought to remain with those who drafted the program to be followed not with those who objected to it. Sir John Walsham remarked that while he was of Mr. von Brandt's opinion with regard to the inadvisability of demanding directly or indirectly that the audience should be held in the Palace proper and while he fully understood and appreciated the practical difficulties which might arise from an attempt

at

at placing Mr. Parkes' second proposal before the Yamen he thought nevertheless that it should be carried out at any risk. The Tze Kuang Ho had rightly or wrongly got a very bad name and not only foreign but also Chinese public opinion had pointed to the use of that place as one of the principal reasons why the audience of 1873 had not been considered as a success. Under these circumstances it was a concession on the part of the foreign Representatives and not a small one that they had agreed at the request

of

of the Chinese Ministers
and for the reasons given
by them to accept that hall
once more as the place where
the next audience was to
take place. The foreign
Representatives having thus
proved their wish to meet
the Yamên as far as possible
had undoubtedly the right
to expect some concession
from the Yamên's side too;
the foreign Representatives
did not wish to insert
into the Protocol that a
certain place should serve
for the next audience, but
they objected to the insertion
in the Protocol of a phrase

limiting

limiting the choice of such
place in the future to the
grounds outside of the Palace
which would theoretically
at least prevent any
further progress in that
direction. After a prolonged
conversation on this question
Mr. Pansa proposed that in
order to ascertain the view
of the meeting a vote should
be taken on the question
if the Palace proper should
be mentioned or not to
the Yamen as the place
for future audiences and
receptions. This being done
the proposal to mention the
palace was unanimously

negatived

negatived. The discussion being resumed on the second point, Mr. Ristelhueber proposed that it might recommend itself not to take any definite decision at present but to wait for the result of Mr. von Brandt's next interview with the Yamên and Mr. Pausa suggested that it might perhaps obviate some of the difficulties apprehended by Mr. von Brandt if at the next meeting he were to present to the Yamên a written statement on the question at issue such as it ought to

be

be inserted into the final Protocol according to the views and wishes of the foreign Representatives; this way of proceeding would throw upon the Yamên the necessity of raising objections against the proposed draft and would thus allow the foreign Representatives further time for discussion and decision. This proposal being agreed upon the meeting separated.

Signed

M. von Brandt, Charles Denby,

John Walsham, H. Otori,

A. Pauncefote, J. N. Ferguson,

(over)

R. G. de Moribarri, C. Kleinénon,
O. Rütschweder, Chas. Michel.

Misc. No. 20/1891.

Protocol,

of the meeting held at the German legation on Feby. 21. 1891. Present, the Representatives of Belgium, France, the German Empire, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, and the United States.

Mr. von Brandt having read the annexed memorandum of his interview with the Ministers of the Yamên on the 19th inst, his action was approved. After a short discussion the annexed program of the rules to be observed at the audiences

and

and general reception was approved and Mr. von Brandt was authorized to place it before the Ministers of the Yamên at their next meeting as the unanimous expression of opinion of the Foreign Representatives to be embodied in the final Protocol to be signed by the Chinese Ministers and Foreign Representatives. The meeting then separated.

(Signed.) W. von Brandt

" " "

Memorandum.

of the Conference held at the Tsungli-Yamên on Febry. 22 1891, between the Chinese Ministers Hsü Keng-shen, Sun Yi-wên, Liao Shou-ling, Hsü Yung-i, and Chang Yin Huan, and Mr. von Brandt. The latter on the part and for the Foreign Representatives. The Chinese Minister having taken cognizance of the draft of the proposed Protocol, submitted to them by Mr. von Brandt, Sun Yi-wen asked on what subjects other autograph letters of Sovereigns or Rulers might be addressed to

the

the Emperor. Being answered that they would refer to marriages, births or deaths, the clause was accepted by the Chinese Ministers without any further observations on their part. Sun Yi-wen then asked if at the general reception the members of the Diplomatic body having taken up their positions could not bow to the Emperor at the same time and together; he was answered by Mr von Brandt that there was no objection to this but that it would be desirable that the Emperor should acknowledge

this

this salutation by returning it.
The Chinese Ministers agreed
to this without discussion.
They then expressed the wish
that the number and places
of bows to be made at the
general reception should
be expressed a little more
clearly in the Protocol, to
which Mr. von Brandt said
no objection. Sun Yiwen
having remarked that Prince
Ching would not be in a
position to hand the text of
H. M's. speech to Mr. von Brandt
on the spot, as it could not
be written down before
hand, but that it would be
afterwards forwarded to

him

to him, Mr. von Brandt replied that he had understood Prince Ching to have said that the text of H.E.'s speech would be handed over to him on the spot, but that he saw no objection to its being sent to him afterwards. The final text of the Protocol ches having been agreed upon, the Chinese Ministers promised that two copies of it signed by the members of the Yamên would be forwarded to him, to be signed in their turn by the Foreign Representatives, one of the copies to be returned to the Yamên, the other to be kept

by

by the Doyen. The Chinese Ministers finally asked Mr. von Brandt to request his Colleagues to forward the copies and translations of their credentials and addresses to the Yamên with as little delay as possible, promising in their turn to inform each Legation separately four or five days in advance of the day fixed for the audience. The meeting then separated under mutual congratulations upon the satisfactory result arrived at.

(Signed) M. v. Brandt.

Protocol

of the meeting held at the German Legation on Febry. 23. 1891. Present: the Representatives of Belgium, France, the German Empire, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, and the United States.

Mr. von Brandt having read the memorandum on his interview with the Yamen on the 22d instant, and the Protocol as finally agreed upon, the latter and his action were approved. Before separating, the Foreign Representatives voted to the Dean unanimously their profound thanks for his services and their appreciation of the ability displayed by H.E. in the conduct of these negotiations.

(Signed)

(Signed) M. v. Brandt.
Charles Denby.
John Waterhouse.
K. Otori.
A. Pansa.

No 1261. Ans 4 to Feb

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 22 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 10th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

The Tsinanfu and the Chining Chou Troubles.

Synopsis

Encloses reply of the Yamên to the communications on those subjects

acc. by
no. file.
J. Hale
April 29, 1891.

One enclosure.

No 1261.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 10th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatches No 1251 and 1252, of February 24th last, I had the honor to enclose to you translations of my communications to the Tsungli Yamên relating to the Chi-nan-fu troubles, now happily terminated, and the recent troubles at Chi-ning-chou. I have now the honor to enclose a translation

61

of

of the reply of the Foreign Office to these despatches.

The Yamên states that it has directed the Governor of Shantung to take action in these cases. It proceeds to set out the text of certain articles of the treaties relating to the protection of missionaries and Chinese converts. It proceeds to enquire whether the Government of the United States has executed the corresponding articles of the treaties relating to the treatment of Chinese subjects in the United States. It affirms that, on presentation of complaints by me of the treatment of missionaries in

China

China it has always shown
"an earnest desire to be
"accommodating and to nourish
"and cultivate friendly relations",
and it desires me to inform
you of this alleged fact.

In obedience to your
despatch No. 553, of September
21st 1890, I shall not take up
the discussion of the question
which the Yamên is so anxious
to raise. I shall confine myself
to pressing particular claims.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure.

1. The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby
March 2nd 1891.

Enclosure in No. 1261.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. , March 2nd 1891.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 21st of Feb. the Yamên received a note from Your Excellency wherein you stated that you had received a letter from the Revd Gilbert Reid to effect that he had taken back the money paid for the property leased (three years ago); that his Mission had taken a lease of another piece of property situate in the east suburb; that the missionaries were willing to regard this purchase as a settlement of the first purchase provided their occupation thereof is rendered secure; that they are willing to forego the punishment of the rioters who assaulted Mr. Reid and to abandon his claim for personal damages and that the missionaries

desire

desire, in the absence of a consul, when they have business with the authorities that they be received by the Taotai and local officials - a request you hoped would be granted etc,

Upon the 25th idem the Yamên received a despatch from Your Excellency to effect that you had received from Dr Stephen A. Hunter a statement of certain wrongs and injuries done to him and his associates at Chi Ning Chou and that officials failed to protect them. You enclosed the names of the rioters and requested their arrest and punishment and that the missionaries be allowed to return to Chi Ning Chou and that the officials guarantee to them protection in the future.

The Yamên has the honor to state that they have communicated with

with the Governor of Shantung in regard to these cases, presenting the particulars as represented and have requested him to issue instructions to the proper officials to take action in the premises.

In regard, however, to the statement made by Your Excellency "they disclose an utter disregard "of treaty rights", the Yamen would observe that in the 11th article of the Burlingame Treaty it reads "Christian citizens and "Chinese converts shall be exempt "from persecution on account of "their religious faith", again in the 29th Art. of the treaty of 1858 it reads: "Hereafter those "who quietly profess and teach "these doctrines (Christianity) "shall not be harassed or persecuted "on account of their faith. Any "person whether citizen of the "United States or Chinese convert "in China or the United States

shall

"shall in no case be interfered
"with or molested."

Since the negotiation of
these treaties, American
missionaries going in the interior
of China to preach the gospel
take these articles as the
authority upon which they rely.

Let us enquire has the action
taken in regard to the treatment
of Chinese in the United States
during the past ten years
been in conformity to the articles
of the treaties cited?

Again in the 6th Art. (of the
Burlingame treaty) "Chinese
"subjects visiting or residing
"in the United States shall
"enjoy the same privileges,
"immunities &c etc.", Up to the
present time has action been
in accordance with the stipulation
of this article of the treaty?

Whenever Your Excellency
has presented a missionary

case

case, either by an official communication or an informal note, the Yamên has at once issued instructions that action be taken in the premises. China has always shown an extra desire to be accommodating and to nourish and cultivate friendly relations.

Your Excellency should inform the Honorable Secretary of State of this so that the people of both countries may alike enjoy the benefits and privileges provided in the Burlingame treaty, thus manifesting a spirit of justice and equity.

Now besides awaiting the report of the Shantung authorities, on receipt of which the Yamên will again communicate with you, the Ministers send this reply in advance for Your Excellency's information.

Cards of Ministers with compliments.

McCurdy 6

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MAR 6 1891

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From Peking

March 6, 1891.

Received 9.14 A.M.

Blaine, Confirmed March 12. 91.

Washington.

Ask by mail concerning details

Audience had yesterday

Denby

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
APR 22 1891
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
APR 22 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1262

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 10th 1891.

Acknd 28th Apr 91 Hooker

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR22 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

The Banquet at the Tsung-li Yamên, given by orders of the Emperor to the Diplomatic Body, March 6. 1891.

Synopsis.

The Speeches made enclosed herewith.

No. 1262.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 10th. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

As a fitting sequel according to Chinese usage and in order to emphasize the new era of good feeling between the Chinese Government and the Representatives of the Foreign Powers the Prince and Ministers of the Yamên gave to the Diplomatic

body

body yesterday a magnif-
icent banquet. Tables
were spread in a newly
built house of glass which
was profusely ornamented
with hangings and em-
broideries. Having described
a banquet which took
place two years ago at the
same place (See Foreign
Relations 1889 page 105,) I
deem it unnecessary to
go into details again.
The two Banquets were
very similar, but this one
was more elaborate and
lasted longer. The Dean
after some time had
passed, delivered a speech

of

of which a copy is,
herewith, enclosed.
Prince Ch'ing responded
in a speech of which
a translation is, herewith,
enclosed.
I proposed the health
of the Prince and Ministers
of the Yamen. A copy of
the remarks made is,
herewith, enclosed.
The Prince then proposed
the health of the members
of the Diplomatic Body
making a few remarks
a translation whereof is,
herewith, enclosed.
The occasion was very jovial
and friendly and there

were

were many expressions from the Prince and Ministers of the best of feeling towards the Foreign Powers. The Banquet was especially ordered by the Emperor as a proof of good will. The Foreign Representatives did not at first accept it, stating to the Tsarin that they were accustomed to being entertained at the tables of the heads of Government on great occasions. But it was intimated to the Tsarin that if satisfactory arrangements were made touching the audience the invitation to the Banquet

<u>would</u>

would be accepted. As the arrangements for the audience were finally satisfactory we concluded to appear at the Banquet.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

Four Inclosures
No. 1 Remarks of the Dean
" 2 " " Prince Ching
" 3 " " Mr. Denby
" 4 " " Prince Ching proposing the health of the Diplomatic Body.

Speech read by Mr. von Brandt,
as Dean of the Diplomatic Body,
at the Banquet given by
the Tsungli Yamên
March 6. 1891.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies: It gives
me great pleasure to be able
to be once more the mouth-
piece of the Diplomatic
Body in proposing the
health of H.M. the Emperor.
Nearly two years have gone
by since, at the Banquet
given by order of H.M.
the Empress Regent to the
Representatives of the Treaty
Powers, I had the honor
of paying our respectful

tribute

tribute of admiration to the virtues and talents of Her Majesty, and to point out that the Banquet then offered to the Foreign Representatives, and still more the reasons which had been put forward in the Imperial Edict for doing such an honor to them might be considered as a new point of departure, and as indicating that the joint work of the Tsungli Yamen and the Foreign Representatives had begun to bear its fruit. Today, another Banquet unites my Colleagues

and

and myself with H. M.
and H. Exs. and this time
it is given not on the
occasion of a ruler
withdrawing from the work
and the success of many
years, but of a young
Sovereign, full of promise
and hope, having entered
for the first time upon
what may be properly
called the international
part of his great office.
And again the Imperial
Edict by which this August
has been ordered has
mentioned the growing
intimacy between China
and the Treaty Powers and

the

the part taken by the Foreign Representatives in bringing about this satisfactory result. My Colleagues and myself have been deeply moved by this Imperial acknowledgement of our endeavors to strengthen the friendly relations between China and the Treaty Powers. We gladly recognize in the Audiences granted yesterday to the Foreign Representatives and the whole Diplomatic Body and in those to take place in future a further advance in the direction indicated

by

by the Edict of H.M. the
Empress Regent issued two years ago.
We fully trust and believe in
the will and the power of
H.M. the Emperor to continue in
the line of policy announced by
him in his Edict of December last
and to bring about that which we
consider as H. M's ultimate aim
a perfect understanding between
China and the Treaty Powers, and
the free and unconditional entrance
of China into the Comity of nations,
where we can assure Y. M.
and Y. Exs. she will receive a
warm and friendly welcome.
My Colleagues and myself
request Y. M. and Y. Exs. to
please before H.M. the Emperor,

Our

our profound and most respectful thanks for the honor done to us yesterday and today as well as our wishes for the happiness and welfare of H. M. the Imperial Dynasty, and the people of China.

To the health of His Majesty, the Emperor!

His Highness, Prince Chung's reply to Mr. von Brandt's address at the Banquet.

In the address of your Excellencies today, you have been thoroughly courteous and polite towards my august Sovereign - expressing as you have the sentiments of friendly Powers. His Highness and his associate Ministers beg to return thanks for these kindly expressions which they will present to His Majesty in a memorial. To day this Banquet is given at this Yamên by command of His Majesty, the Emperor,

and

and His Highness and the Ministers are very much pleased at meeting Your Excellencies together and to engage in pleasant conversation. It is the wish of His Highness and his associate Ministers that the relations of friendship hereafter between China and Foreign Powers will increase and become more and more thorough and sincere and that which is suspicious may be in abundance. His Highness respectfully salutes the Emperors, Kings, and Presidents of the Foreign Powers represented here today and wishes them continuous prosperity

and

and long life, and that their respective Countries may enjoy peace and happiness. His Highness also expresses the hope that Your Excellencies may live in the enjoyment of every thing that may transpire being peaceful and tranquil.

Speech of Mr. Denby.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies: On behalf of the Diplomatic Body, I have much pleasure in proposing the health of Your Highness and Your Excellencies. The relations between the members of the Tsungli Yamên and the members of the Diplomatic Body have always been most friendly. The conciliatory conduct of Your Highness and Your Excellencies is much appreciated by the Diplomatic Body. Our wish is that Your Highness

and

Your Excellencies may be
blessed with a long and
happy and prosperous
career.

The health of Your
Highness and Your
Excellencies.'

Reply of H. H. Prince Ch'ing to Mr. Denby's speech at the Banquet held at the Tsungli Yamen, March 6. 1891.

The Banquet given at this Yamên today is in obedience to the command of His Majesty the Emperor showing His Majesty's desire to be polite and courteous to the Foreign Diplomatic Representatives. His Highness and his Colleagues, the Ministers of the Yamên are all extremely delighted and pleased at the pleasant conversation on this occasion of the New year, and it is their hope that the friendly relations in the future between the Foreign Ministers and themselves will become more and more intimate.

His

His Highness with this glass of wine Salutes the Foreign Ministers, their Secretaries, attachés, &c., hoping they may live in the enjoyment of peace and tranquility and may have happiness and joy in all their desires.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
APR 22 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 22 1891
RECEIVED

No 1263.

Legation of the United States.
Peking March 10th 1891.

Ack'd 23 Apr '91 Morton

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR22 1891

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The audience.

Synopsis.

A full description thereof.

No 1263.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 10th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the foreign Representatives were received on the 5th inst. by the Emperor.

The Ministers of the German Empire, the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Italy and the Netherlands were received separately in audience in the order stated and delivered

Their

their respective letters of credence.
Afterwards the Ministers
accompanied by their staffs
and the Chargés d'Affaires
of Spain, Russia, France and
Belgium with their staffs were
received together.

The arrangements for the
audience and reception were in
strict accordance with the
programme, a copy whereof is
enclosed in my despatch No.
1256 of Feb. 28th last.

The members of the Legation
left their residences at a quarter
to 10 A.M. all in chairs
escorted by two mounted
officers detailed for the purpose
by the Foreign Office. They

arrived

arrived nearly all together at the Ti Tua gate about 10½ A.M. This is a gate opening into the imperial grounds. It is near the western end of the Marble Bridge and not far from the old Pei-tang. It is very elaborately decorated, covered with the imperial yellow tiles and bearing several tablets with inscriptions betokening longevity, prosperity etc.

The locality is called the "Western Gardens". These gardens are handsomely laid out on the shores of a lake, along which runs the narrow guage railroad which the Emperor uses for his pleasure. The cars are drawn by eunuchs.

Last

vast crowds of people, civil and respectful but curious in demeanor, lined the streets through which we passed. Outside and inside the gate for some distance there were ranged on either side of the way lines of soldiers and civil employes. At the Fu Tsua gate we were received by the members of the Foreign Office who escorted us to a pavilion situate in the Shih Ying Kung, a temple which contains the River God and where the Emperor goes to offer sacrifices. Here was a table on which were spread cakes, sweetmeats, fruits and Chinese confections. Tea was served.

The

The room was small and was much crowded by the members of the Legations and of the Yamên. Prince Ch'ing, President of the Tsungli Yamên, came to this room and paid his respects to us.

My colleagues were dressed in full uniforms and covered with decorations, except the Minister of Great Britain who wore a uniform but no decoration. My secretaries and I were in plain black evening suits.

The intense desire to see the foreigners of the hundreds of eunuchs who crowded around the doors of this room seemed to be uncontrolable. But as one

side

side of the glass wall commenced to crack from the pressure, one of the head eunuchs managed to keep the crowd back.

After waiting in this room about an hour we were escorted to several marquees placed within a few steps of the reception hall - the Tzu Kuang Ko.

The Emperor had just arrived in his yellow sedan chair borne by eight men and was waiting to receive us. This chair was in no wise remarkable. The intire outside and inside are covered with yellow silk. The official button on top is

girded

gilded, instead of silvered as with other chairs, and the ends of the bearing poles are elaborately carved and capped with brass or gilded dragons. The chair used by Prince Ch'ing was much like it in appearance.

The Zu Huang Ko is a very handsome building profusely ornamented with gilt work and covered with gay [barbaric] colors, [showy but somewhat inharmonious and lacking in artistic beauty to western taste.] The hall is approached by six or eight marble steps which lead to a broad marble terrace. Around this terrace is a banister supported by numerous pillars of marble

splendidly

splendidly carved and pure white.

At twelve o'clock Mr. von Brandt, Dean of the Diplomatic Body, was escorted by a member of the Foreign Office up these steps and into the hall. I followed, after he had had audience, and then went the other Ministers separately in the order stated.

The sides of the approach to the steps, the steps themselves and the terrace were all crowded with Chinese. The majority of these were eunuchs employed in the palace, but many were civil or military officials, whose rank did not entitle them to enter the presence of the Emperor.

The

The Emperor was seated in a marble chair at the place marked "throne" on the plat which is, herewith, enclosed. I was accompanied by the Interpreter, Mr. F. D. Cherbine, who remained a little behind me. We bowed as we crossed the threshold, advanced three or four paces and bowed again, and then advanced to a point between the two dragon pillars where we stopped and bowed the third time. There a foreign carpet had been placed which covered the floor up to the platform, which was about three feet high. There were three flights of stairs

ascending

ascending the platform, one in the middle and one at each end. I stood nearly in front of the middle stairs at a distance of about twelve feet from the Emperor. I then read the remarks which are appended hereto.

2

When I finished reading my speech I advanced to the right side of the left flight of steps with my letter of credence in my hand. But before I advanced the Interpreter read a Chinese translation of the speech. As I advanced to the platform Prince Ch'ing, who had been standing on the left of the Emperor, came down

the

the stairs and approached me and I handed my letter of credence to him.

He ascended the stairs, approached the table in front of the Emperor and laid the letter of credence upon it in reach of the Emperor. The Prince did not kneel until after he had deposited my letter on the table. Then he knelt and the Emperor replied in Manchu to my speech. A translation of his remarks is herewith enclosed:

I had meantime returned to my place between the dragon pillars. The Prince came down from the platform, approached the Interpreter and translated

sentence

sentence by sentence into Chinese what the Emperor had said, which in like manner the interpreter translated to me in English.

After the Interpreter had finished translating my speech and when the letter of credence was laid on the table the Emperor made bows or inclinations towards me. We then retired in the same manner that we entered, going out backwards and making three bows.

I add some further description of the hall and the surroundings.

The table in front of the Emperor was covered with yellow satin

satin embroidered with figures of dragons. On his right stood Prince Po, on his left Prince Ko, and near him Prince Ching. The room was lined on either side by a row two deep of high officers of the Imperial Guards and Chamberlains, many being Princes and Dukes of the Imperial family. No arms were visible except that the two Princes mentioned and the Emperor himself wore swords. Just outside the doors could be seen the imperial escort bearing long red lacquered spears with silver points. Suspended from each one was a long tiger tail. They presented a picturesque appearance.

On

On either side and a little back of the Emperor was a straight stem about six feet high supporting at the top what appeared to be painted imitations of peacock tails spread open. The peacock feather is an indication of rank in China.

Back of the throne was a marble plinth on which lengthy inscriptions in the Manchu language were engraved.

The sides of the hall were covered with inscriptions and rare paintings of enormous size. The ceiling of the hall was composed of wooden squares of one and a half feet in size divided by heavy rafters.

all

all gorgeously painted with the dragon figures in the multitudinous colors used in the ditrict decorations.

The columns supporting the ceiling were of red lacquer covered with figures of gold dragons. The floor was bare except the small space covered by the carpet on which we stood.

All around the platform stood immense incense bowls of old cloisné, six in number and at each corner stood a large cloisné dragon of great value, ideal and graceful in outline and harmonious in color. From the ceiling there were suspended eight cloisné lamps made

during

during the Tao Kuang dynasty.

The pipe of His Majesty lay on the table before him. This was a beautiful piece of carved jade and gold, the handle formed by the body and tail of the dragon its mouth serving as the tobacco bowl.

The Emperor was dressed in a plum colored satin gown which differed from such as are usually worn only by being heavily embroidered on the sleeves with figures of dragons. On his head he wore a turban of sables.

The Emperor is twenty one years old. His reign nominally commenced seventeen years ago. The Empress

Dowager

Dowager as Regent, ruled China
until two years ago when the
Emperor took actual control of
the Government. He has the
appearance now of a delicate
youth. He is small and thin
[and gives no promise of possessing
physical strength. He is] pale and
intellectual looking. His eyes
are large and black and his
face smooth and hairless. He
performed his duties at the audience
without embarassment [or
trepidation] and seemed throughout
to be pleased. He has since
expressed himself as being much
gratified with the manner in
which the ceremonies were conducted.
The foreign Representatives are
no

no less pleased. It is likely, however, that at future audiences an effort will be made to cause the Emperor to receive envoys standing and not sitting. Such is the practice now of all European monarchs I believe.

After the separate audiences were over, the whole Diplomatic Body had a reception. There were six Ministers, four Chargés d'Affaires and twenty one secretaries, attaches and interpreters. Each Legation accompanied it's chief and the whole body formed three lines, the ministers and Chargés in the first line, the secretaries

in

in the second and the interpreter in the third. The Dean was on the right and the other ministers and chargés on his left in their order of rank. I was accompanied by the two secretaries and the interpreter of this Legation.

Prince Ch'ing then presented to His Majesty the chargés d'Affaires of Spain, Russia, France and Belgium. Mr. von Brandt then delivered the speech of which a copy is herewith enclosed.

The Emperor replied in the speech a translation whereof is herewith enclosed.

The ceremonies then terminated

the

the members of the diplomatic body retiring as before.

We were invited to return to the first room into which we had been ushered to partake of refreshments, but the invitation was declined. We proceeded to our chairs accompanied by the members of the Tsungli Yamên and left the grounds.

The foreign Representatives met at the German Legation the 7th inst. and signed the protocol, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. They expressed themselves as being satisfied that the programme agreed on had been fully carried out.

6/ (The Anglo-Chinese papers

draft

have

have been full of disparaging remarks about the hall in which we were received. This talk is mostly sensational. The hall is located in the grounds in which both the Empress Dowager and the Emperor reside. It is handsome and beautifully located. That it has heretofore been used for the reception of Corean and Mongol princes is, as Dr Williams said, "a petty scruple".

But the Yamên agreed to arrange for future audiences another hall so the question is not worth discussing now.

omit

I enclose, herewith, a description of the Tzu Kuang Ko

translated

translated from the Chinese by the Second Secretary of this Legation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Seven enclosures:

1. Plat of the audience hall;
2. Mr. Denby's address to the Emperor.
3. The Emperor's reply to Mr. Denby
4. Mr. von Brandt's address as Dean of the Diplomatic Body
5. The Emperor's reply to above.
6. Protocol of meeting of the Diplomatic Body, March 7th 1891.
7. A description of the Zu Tuang Ko.

Enclosure 1 in No 1263

Sketch of the Audience Hall in the Zu Kuang Ko, according to the measures given by the Tungli Yamen.

Entrance to the hall.

Enclosure 2 in No 1263

Mr. Denby's Address to the Emperor

Your Imperial Majesty:

When I was accredited to the Court of Your Imperial Majesty as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, I was charged by His Excellency the President of the United States to deliver in person to Your Majesty a letter of credence.

In this letter His Excellency the President expresses to Your Majesty his sincere desire to cultivate to the fullest extent the friendship that has so long subsisted between Your Majesty and himself, and I am charged to convey to Your Majesty the best wishes of the Government of the United States for the prosperity of Your Majesty's Government.

I now have the honor, by the direction of the President of the United States, to renew and to affirm and emphasize all these declarations, and to deliver to Your Imperial Majesty the letter of credence with which I am entrusted.

Enclosure 3 in No 1263

His Majesty the Emperor's reply to Colonel Denby's address at the audience.

His Majesty expresses his great satisfaction and joy at the kind sentiments of the President of the United States which Your Excellency has made on this occasion of presenting your letters of credence.

His Majesty hopes that the President of the United States is well.

His Majesty is aware of the fact that Your Excellency from the time you reached China has fully understood the principles of propriety and has been fair and even tempered in the transaction of public business. His Majesty thoroughly hopes that in the future the relations of friendship between the two countries may become closer and more intimate daily

and

and each may enjoy tranquility
and peace.

Enclosure 4 in No 1263

Address read by Mr. von Brandt as Dean of the Diplomatic Body on the occasion of the reception of the members of that Body by His Majesty the Emperor of China on March 5th 1891.

Sire:

The members of the diplomatic body resident at Peking have today for the first time the opportunity and the honor to be able to offer in person their respectful wishes to Your Majesty. They do so with the conviction that the policy inaugurated by Your Majesty will greatly contribute to augment and to strengthen the bonds of friendship which exist already now so happily between China and the countries and nations having treaty-relations with it.

That such may be the case is the most fervent wish of all the

the persons assembled here today, and while they offer to Your Majesty their sincerest and most respectful felicitations on the occasion of the New Year just entered upon, they beg to be allowed to give expression to their hope and their conviction that, under the enlightened rule of Your Majesty, the blessings of peace and happiness will be granted to the Imperial Dynasty and the people of China.

Enclosure 3 in No. 126.

His Majesty's reply to the Address presented by Mr. von Brandt at the Reception.

The sincere and honest sentiments expressed by Your Excellencies in the address presented are undoubted and trustworthy and the wishes also expressed are auspicious. His Majesty is very much pleased to hear them.

His Majesty hopes that the President of the United States* may have all his desires fulfilled this new year and may be blessed with continued prosperity and happiness.

His Majesty still further expresses the wish and hope that Your Excellencies may continue to reside long in China as your governments' representatives and may continue in the enjoyment of robust health, and everything may be right and proper and agreeable to Your Excellencies

* A copy in Chinese of the Emperor's speech was delivered to each Legation, in each of which was inserted the title of the chief of the State in which the respective Legation is accredited.

Excellencies and that the friendly relations between foreign governments and China may from this time hence forward be everlastingly firm.

Enclosure 6 in No. 126.

Protocol of the Meeting of the Foreign Representatives March 7th 1891.

Present: the Representatives of Belgium, France, the German Empire, Great Britain, Spain, the Netherlands and the United States.

The Representatives present wishing to put on record the good faith shown by the Chinese Ministers in the execution of the protocol of the 23rd Feb. 1891, have much pleasure in stating that the separate audiences and the general reception of the Diplomatic Body, by His Majesty the Emperor of China, on the 5th of March 1891, have taken place in perfect accordance with the above mentioned agreement.

(sgd) M. v. Brandt.
Charles Denby.
K Hoi.
J. H. Ferguson.
R. G. de Unibari.
P. Ritzehenber.
Charles Michel.

Approuvé:
A. Parra.

Enclosure 7 in No 1263

Published in the "Chinese Times" March 7th 1891.

The Tzu Kuang Ko.

[NOTE.—The Tzu Kuang Ko (紫光閣), or "Hall of Purple Brightness," which lies in the western garden of the imperial city, has been designated by decree as the hall for the reception of the foreign ministers at Peking. The following is a description of this celebrated building translated from the Chen-yuan-chih-lueh (眞垣識畧) an account of Peking published towards the end of the last century.]

North of the Chun Ou Chai on the west shore of the lake is the Tzu Kuang Ko. In front of this hall at every triennial examination the military metropolitan graduates are examined in riding and archery. Here also at the New Year a feast is ordinarily given in honour of the dependencies of the Empire (外藩). It is situated on the western shore of the T'ai-i Chih (the Nan Hai) toward the north. Anciently a pavilion stood here several scores of feet high and a small kiosk with a round roof. On the right and left sides of the pavilion were four arches adjoining the wings of the main building which was ascended by lofty steps. Below and not far away was the archery ground and the trench for the mounted bowmen.

The Emperor Wu Tsung (1506) of the Ming Dynasty altered this building in order to better see the practice at archery, and called it the Level Terrace (平臺). Later this terrace was removed and the Tzu Kuang Ko erected in its place. To the north, outside the gate, stands the Chin Ao arch. During the time of the Mings it was customary on the 5th day of the 5th moon to have here a battle of dragon boats, races of the imperial horses, and matches at archery between the braves of the Court, in the Emperor's presence. In the present dynasty, also, during the reign of Kang Hsi, on the 2nd and 3rd days before the middle of the 8th moon, the high officers of the three superior banners assembled here to engage in contests with the bow. The Emperor Kang Hsi alluded to this in some verses which he wrote:

"The contesting soldiers enter through the flowers,
"The horses with their trappings scatter beyond the willows."

When the contest was over rolls of satin and pieces of silver were bestowed according to merit.

In the 24th year of Kien-lung (1760), when the Mohammedan tribes were overcome, the names of one hundred officers who had gained distinction in the war were inscribed in the Tzu Kuang Ko, and a picture was painted there of a battle of the army in the west. The names of one

hundred officers who had gained glory in the Chin Chuan (金川) campaign (1776) were also inscribed here, and the front hall of the Tzu-Kuang Ko was altered and a picture of one of the battles painted there. Verses laudatory of the first fifty of these officers were written by the Emperor himself, and of the last fifty by the Ministers of the Hanlin, at the Emperor's command. After the return of the army those who had distinguished themselves were feasted here.

Behind the Tzu Kuang Ko stands the Wu Cheng Tien, and north of this the Shih Ying Kung. In here were placed the flag carried by the troops in the Chin Chuan campaign, and the arms which they captured, as an incentive to the valour of the army.

Dip

Peking March 10 1891

Telegram to Dept Ap. 7th 91. + Encl

Hon J. G. Blaine 28 ab

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.

APR 24 1891

Dear Sir

A telegram was received a day or two ago by the Viceroy at Tientsin from the Chinese Minister at Washington stating that Senator Blair had been appointed my successor. This is all the information that I

hear on the subject.
If the statements be
true it is important for
me to know at the earliest
moment, both on account
of public business and
my own private affairs,
when Sir Blair will
arrive at Peking.
Will you do me the favour,
therefore, to wire me,
if it has not already
been done, the probable
date of his arrival here?
I think I may safely

state that I will leave
the public business in good
condition with few matters
to be taken up by my
successor.

I seize this occasion to
express to you my profound
thanks for the uniform
kindness and consideration
that you have extended
to this Legation and to
myself.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

No. 1264

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 12. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 22 1891
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Acknowledges receipt
of despatches.

576 ✓ 14 Jan-91
World's Fair. Jan 91 to
Argentine Republic
1 Same Date

No. 1264.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 12. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt
of your despatches
Nos. 572 of the 19th Decr.
" 573 " " 2d Jany.
" 574 " " 8th "
" 575 " " " "
" 577 " " 15 "
" 578 " " 16 "
No. 576# has not
reached

World's Fair cir.
J 14 Jan 91 – Lee 91
to Atty. Gen.

reached us.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
See No. 1268.
MAY 2 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1265.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 14th 1891.

DIV. OF BUREAU
MAY 2 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Messrs Russell & Co's claim in Formosa

Synopsis

Encloses a despatch relating thereto to the Foreign Office.

One enclosure.

No 1265.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 14th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of my communication to the Yamên, of this date, touching the claim of Messrs Russell & Co in Tamsui against their defaulting compradore Chen Ze-chi. I have to regret that the proceedings before the magistrate were informal. After receiving

all

all the information that can be procured I am still, compelled to admit, the technicality now relied on by the Chinese that no actual judgement was rendered for the sum of 15.193^{79}_{-}$, which is a part of the sum of 36.1142^{63}_{-}$ claimed.

See in this connection my despatch №1213 of the 15th Dec.

But, after the arbitrating compradores made their report, the defendant comprador was allowed to escape.

One side claimed and the other seems to have conceded that the judgement of June 7th 1887, covered the sum claimed.

Whether

whether it did or not, I now claim that the magistrate failed in his duty in not rendering a judgement for the full amount, and that for this negligence the local officials are liable. On this ground I feel authorized to continue to press this claim. The Governor of Formosa has offered to pay $15,000 cash. I think he will get up to $25,000, which the Russells will probably accept and this long standing matter will be settled.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby.

Enclosure:

1. Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office No 5, March 10th 1891

Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office.

No. 5. March 10th 1891.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies:

On the 15th of Sept. 1890, I received from Your Highness and Your Excellencies a communication relating to the claim of Messrs Russell & Co against their defaulting contractor Chen Fe-chi. I have hitherto forborne replying to that despatch in the hope that some arrangement might be made between the Governor of Formosa and Messrs Russell & Co, but the terms offered by the Governor are altogether inadmissible.

I have received a very accurate statement of the facts touching this case from Mr. Pelham L. Warren, British Consul at Tainan and acting as Vice-Consul for the United States, of which facts I make a brief summary.

Time

June 6th 1887, the Tai-wan magistrate fixed June 7th for the hearing of the case. June 7th the parties were present before the Taiwan magistrate Shen. After some proceedings were had the original claim of $19.927 48/100 was admitted to be correct. A new claim of $15,193 79/100, growing out of a sugar transaction was then taken up. The compradore admitted the claim subject to a comparison of accounts. This claim was referred to four compradores to examine the books. They did examine them and reported that the books of Messrs Russell & Co were correctly kept.

Claim No 3, $5061 31/100 taken and $610 original debt, was admitted in full and payment promised. It was distinctly understood that the judgement of the court was in favor of

the

the plaintiffs on the first and third claims and for whatever sums the compradores might report.

The report of the compradores was made July 6th 1887. It was forwarded to the magistrate. The final claim of Russell & Co filed in court was $36-442.63 . It was claimed by the plaintiffs that this item was covered by the judgement rendered June 7th 1887. Until very lately nobody denied it. The comprador was put in jail. He escaped about Aug. 3rd.

The Governor has repeatedly admitted as I have heretofore shown that the judgement would be paid. He once fixed the date of payment. I had several interviews with him in Tomoa in 1888. He in no wise disputed the rendition of the judgement claimed. His whole contention

was

was that it ought to be opened up. I informed him that Your Highness and Your Excellencies considered that judgements once rendered were sacred and could not be altered.

It very clearly appears that the claim of Russell & Co was for the sum stated and that it was not seriously disputed. It must be remembered that Russell & Co had a bond good for many times this debt, that they brought all the securities and the compradore into court, that, at the beginning of the proceedings, the property covered by the bond was ample to pay the debt, and after nearly four years a very small sum of money has been paid to them.

As Your Highness and Your Excellencies sometimes allude to the treatment of Chinese subjects in the United States, permit

me

me to say now that no case is on record in the courts of the United States in which the Chinese have failed to receive equal and exact justice with the Americans. There are many examples in which the courts have protected them against the operation of unjust laws. I notice particularly the late case in which the courts held null and void an ordinance passed by the the City of San Francisco requiring the removal of the Chinese.

It is surely not too much for me to ask in this case that measures be taken to vindicate the majesty and purity of Chinese law, and that the Governor be directed without delay to settle this long standing claim.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack with satisfaction
Give briefly to Press.
MAY 2 1891
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.
MAY 2 1891

No 1266.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 16th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Placards adverse to missionaries

Synopsis

Prohibition thereof by Prefect at Foochow, proclamation enclosed.

One enclosure.

No 1266.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 16th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of a proclamation lately issued by the Foochow Prefect, prohibiting slanders against foreign missionaries.

I recently received from the Consul a number of most infamous pictures which had been placarded in public places in

in Foochow. I judged it best to leave the matter to the local authorities.

The enclosed proclamation shows that the Prefect has treated the subject vigorously and properly.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

1. Clipping fr. "Chinese Times" Feb. 28th 1891

Enclosure in No 1266.

From the "Chinese Times" Feb 28 1891.

Proclamation prohibiting Slanders against foreign Missionaries

The Foochow Prefect Tang, the Min-hsien Magistrate Wong, and Hou Kuan acting Magistrate Chên jointly issued a stringent proclamation enjoining their subjects not to slander missionaries, in accordance with the applications of the different foreign representatives in the treaty ports for the protection of the missionaries against slander, from which serious troubles have arisen and consequent loss of property and money. Since the riot in Wuchang H.E. the Viceroy of Liang Hu, Chang Chih-tung, has issued orders to District Magistrates where missionaries reside, to issue special proclamations as a protection to those who profess the Religion of Jesu or T'ien-chu. The people are forbidden to post placards or to assemble in crowds to bring about disturbances, or in any way to interfere with the good works of Christians. Should any disobey this they are to be severely punished; for we want to keep on friendly terms with those who come here as doers and teachers of good. They are as a rule very orderly and peaceful people, therefore we do not want in any way to injure them. Recently some indecent and libellous placards have been posted against missionaries, and the Magistrates desire to apprehend the authors to make an example of them. Let the people take heed of this proclamation. For their religions contain all that is good and their desire is to convert the people from bad to good. Their Churches are places where they go to worship, therefore all that has been said of them is false. If any is caught slandering or libelling in any way, he shall be relentlessly punished. Let no one disobey the instructions herein contained. Respect this very important and special proclamation!

Ready to file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 2 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1267.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 16th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledging despatches.

No 1267.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 16th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches No 579 of the 21st January; No 580 of the 23rd Jan.; No 581 of the 24th Jan.; No 582 of the 26th Jan; No 583 of the 26th Jan; and No 584 of the 27th Jan., and also a letter of credence addressed to "His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China", and a copy thereof

bearing

bearing date the 27th day of

January 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack with No. 1265.
MAY 2 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

Rec'd 14 May

No 1268.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 18th 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 8 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Formosa claim of Russell & Co

Synopsis

Answer of Yamên enclosed herewith

One enclosure.

No 1268.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 18th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of the answer of the Yamên to my late communication touching the claim of Messrs Russell & Co in Formosa. A copy of this communication was forwarded to you enclosed in my despatch No 1265 of March 14th 1891.

The Yamên has ordered

the

the Governor to lose no time in directing the local authorities to close up the matter.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure.

1. The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby No 5 March 16th 1891.

Enclosure in No. 1268

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby

No. 5. March 16th 1891.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 10th inst., the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from Your Excellency; relating to the claim of Russell & Co versus Chen Ze-chi, wherein you stated that the terms offered by the Governor of Formosa were altogether inadmissible; that you had received a very accurate account of the facts touching this case from Mr. Pelham L. Warren, British Consul at Tainan, and acting for the United States, of which facts you made a summary and you requested that the Governor be directed to take measures to settle this case without delay, &c.

In regard to this claim

the

the Prince and Ministers would observe that since they transmitted to Your Excellency last year a copy of the Governor of Tamsui's communication having reference thereto, nothing further has been received from that officer upon the subject.

Now having received the communication from Your Excellency under acknowledgement, the Prince and Ministers have addressed the Governor to lose no time in instructing the local authorities to take proper action with a view of bringing the case to a close. On receipt of the Governor's report the Prince and Ministers will again address you.

A necessary communication addressed to His Excellency

Charles Denby

&c. &c. &c.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 2 1891

No 1269.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 19th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

The World's Columbian Exposition

Synopsis

Has forwarded copies of documents relating thereto to Chinese Government.

One enclosure.

No 1269.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 19th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 576, of Jan. 14th last with enclosures, relating to the World's Columbian Exposition.

I sent to the Foreign Office a communication, of which a copy is enclosed herewith, also copies of the President's proclamation,

69

the

the Act of Congress and the Regulations for Foreign Exhibitors.

I sent the same papers to Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of Customs, who will, I suppose, have charge of the China Branch of the Exhibition.

I will send the reply of the Foreign Office when it arrives.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure.

1. Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office March 19th 1891.

Enclosure in No 1269

Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office.

No 6. March 19th 1891.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the
honor to transmit to you
herewith, a copy of a
Proclamation issued by the
President of the United States
of America, inviting on behalf
of the Government and People of
the United States the Government
and People of China to participate
in the commemoration of the
Four Hundredth Anniversary
of the Discovery of America by
Christopher Colombus, by
holding at the City of Chicago
State of Illinois from the 1st day
of May 1893 until the last
Tuesday in October of that year,
an exposition of arts, industries,
manufactures and the products
of the soil, mine and sea.

2

It is the desire of the President speaking for the People of the United States that all the nations of the earth may take part in the proposed exhibition by appointing representatives thereto and by sending such exhibits as will most fitly and fully illustrate their resources, their industries and their progress in civilization.

I have the honor, also, to enclose a copy of the Act of Congress, approved April 25th 1890, providing for the exhibition, and, in this relation, I invite particular attention to the accompanying pamphlet which contains:

First - The General Regulations for Foreign Exhibitors;

Second - The circular issued by the Secretary of the Treasury concerning the regulations governing the free importation of articles for exhibition;

Third

Third, the classification of exhibits and

Fourth, Programme of the World's Congress auxiliary to the World's Columbian Exposition.

In thus communicating to Your Highness and Your Excellencies the formal invitation of the President that China may be represented at this great Exposition, I have to inform you that I have already communicated to my Government the agreeable information that Your Highness and Your Excellencies have already consented to such representation by China, and that such information has been a source of very great pleasure to the President. This pleasure will be increased by your formal acceptance of this invitation.

I have only now to request that Your Highness and Your Excellencies will take early

steps

steps towards forming an organization which will take in hand the practical steps necessary to be taken in order to secure such an exposition for China as will be suitable and worthy of her greatness. To assist you somewhat in this undertaking I have the honor to enclose herewith a paper prepared by Prof. Romyn Hitchcock, Commissioner of the World's Columbian Exposition for China, containing some valuable suggestions as to the practicas methods of securing a suitable exhibit at that Exposition.

Rockhill

No 1270.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 2 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 20th, 1891.

— Wm. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject —
Repairs Account for
Quarter Ending the
31st of December 1890.

No 1270. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 20th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the Repairs Account of this Legation for the Quarter Ending the 31st December 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack with approval
aak
MAY 2 1891

4 May

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1271.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 20th 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 5 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Chungking officially opened to foreign trade.

Synopsis

Encloses papers relating to the said opening.

Two enclosures.

No 1271.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 20th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, clippings from the North China Daily News of the 12th inst, containing the conditions under which Chungking is to be opened as a treaty port. The first is the text of the Convention between Great Britain and China; the second is the Customs Notification of

the

the rules adopted for the regulation of trade.

Under the favored nation clause in the treaties the right secured by Great Britain enures to the benefit of all the treaty powers who choose to accept it. It being plain to me that you would not hesitate to secure to Americans the right to trade and reside at Chunghing, I have notified the Foreign Office that Americans will avail themselves, if they please, of this concession equally with the subjects of Great Britain. Such a notification seemed proper because a government may not always choose to avail

of its rights under the favored nation clause. The privelege granted to one might, in a given case, not be desired by another.

Strictly the Foreign Office should have notified all the foreign representatives that Chungking was opened to foreign trade but, as it was silent, we took the initiative.

I have directed the Consul-General to inform the Consuls, or to give notice in such mode as he might select, of the opening of this port.

This subject has been so fully noticed in my despatches that further comment is unnecessary.

I

I may say, however, that the phrase used in the preamble of the additional article, to wit: "the divergence of opinion", has given rise to some criticism in China. Foreign residents usually claimed that the Chefoo Convention guaranteed the right to navigate the Yangtze to Chungking with steam. This claim is modified by the fifth clause so that it depends on "Chinese steamers carrying cargo" to Chungking.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures

1. Convention between Great Britain and China
2. Customs' Notification regarding opening of Chungking.

Enclosure No 1 in No 1271.

CUSTOMS NOTIFICATION.

No. 283.

Customs House,

Shanghai, 28th Feb., 1891.

IT is hereby notified for the guidance of all concerned that pending the publication of Custom Home Rules for the Port of Chungking, opened to trade by the Additional Articles to the Chefoo Agreement, and for Ichang-Chungking between-ports, information respecting the procedure to be adopted can be obtained from both the Ichang and Chungking Customs. In the meantime special attention is directed to the following points:—

I.—Chinese junks chartered by foreign Merchants at Ichang or Chungking will be supplied with Special Certificate and Special Flag for use between those places on application to the Customs there.

II.—Vessels of Chinese type intended for use between Ichang and Chungking, if owned by treaty-power foreigners, provided with national papers, and entitled to fly the national flag, are to be reported to the Customs through the Consulate; they will then be supplied with Special Certificate and Special Flag by the Customs, and it is to be particularly noted that such papers and flags are not transferable, and that without them no vessel will be allowed the privileges and immunities granted under the Additional Article.

III.—When shipping merchandise intended for Chungking from Shanghai or any other Yangtsze port, the same procedure is to be followed at the Customs concerned as in the case of merchandise shipped thence to Ichang; and subsequent transhipment to junk at Ichang is to be effected in just the same way as the *en route* transhipment from steamer to steamer at Hankow.

IV.—Chungking merchandise, up or down, can be unpacked at either Hankow or Ichang on application to the Customs there and under Customs supervision.

V.—Mr. H. Evans Hanson has been appointed Commissioner of Customs at Chungking.

By order of the Inspector General,

R. E. BREDON,

Commissioner of Customs.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 1271

NOTIFICATION.

UNDER instructions from Sir JOHN WALSHAM, Baronet, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, the undersigned publishes herewith the English and Chinese texts of the Additional Article of the Chefoo Agreement of 1876, containing the conditions under which Chungking is to be opened as a Treaty Port.

The Additional Article, which was signed at Peking on the 31st March, 1890, has been ratified by Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and by His Majesty the Emperor of China, and the exchange of ratifications was effected on the 18th January.

P. J. HUGHES,
H.B.M. Consul-General.

H.B.M. Consulate-General,
Shanghai, 9th March, 1891.

THE Governments of Great Britain and China being desirous of settling in an amicable spirit the divergence of opinion which has arisen with respect to the First Clause of the Third Section of the Agreement concluded at Chefoo in 1876 which stipulates that "the British Government "will be free to send Officers to reside at "Chungking to watch the conditions of Bri- "tish trade in Szechuen, that British mer- "chants will not be allowed to reside at "Chungking or to open establishments or "warehouses there, so long as no steamers "have access to the port, and that when "steamers have succeeded in ascending the "River so far, further arrangements can be "taken into consideration" have agreed upon the following Additional Article:—

I.—Chungking shall forthwith be declared open to trade on the same footing as any other Treaty Port. British subjects shall be at liberty either to charter Chinese vessels or to provide vessels of the Chinese type for the traffic between Ichang and Chungking.

II.—Merchandise conveyed between Ichang and Chungking by the above class of vessels shall be placed on the same footing as merchandise carried by steamers between Shanghai and Ichang and shall be dealt with in accordance with Treaty, Tariff Rules, and the Yangtsze Regulations.

III.—All Regulations as to the Papers and Flags to be carried by vessels of the above description, as to the cargo certificates with which they shall be provided, as to the re-package of goods for the voyage beyond Ichang and as to the general procedure to be observed by those engaged in the traffic between Ichang and Chungking with a view to ensuring convenience and security, shall be drawn up by the Superintendent of Customs at Ichang, the Taotai of the Ch'uan Yung Circuit, who is now stationed at Chungking, and the Commissioner of Customs in consultation with the British Consul, and shall be liable to any modifications that may hereafter prove to be desirable and may be agreed upon by common consent.

IV.—Chartered junks shall pay Port dues at Ichang and Chungking in accordance with the Yangtsze Regulations; vessels of Chinese type, if and when entitled to carry the British flag shall pay tonnage dues in accordance with Treaty Regulations. It is obligatory on both chartered junks and also vessels of the Chinese type, even when the latter may be entitled to carry the British flag, to take out at the Maritime Custom House special papers and a special flag when intended to be employed by British subjects in the transport of goods between Ichang and Chungking, and without such papers and flag no vessel of either class shall be allowed the privileges and immunities granted under this Additional Article. Provided with special papers and flag vessels of both classes shall be allowed to ply between the two ports and they and their cargoes shall be dealt with in accordance with Treaty Rules and the Yangtsze Regulations. All other vessels shall be dealt with by the native Customs. The special papers and flag issued by the Maritime Customs must alone be used by the particular vessel for which they were originally issued and are not transferable from one vessel to another. The use of the British flag by vessels the property of Chinese is strictly prohibited. Infringement of these Regulations will, in the first instance, render the offender liable to the penalties in force at the ports hitherto opened under Treaty and should the offence be subsequently repeated the vessel's special papers and flag will be withdrawn and the vessel herself refused permission thenceforward to trade between Ichang and Chungking.

V.—When once Chinese steamers carrying cargo run to Chungking British steamers shall in like manner have access to the said port.

VI.—It is agreed that the present Additional Article shall be considered as forming part of the Chefoo Agreement and as having the same force and validity as if it were inserted therein word for word. It shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at Peking and it shall come into operation six months after its signature, provided the ratifications have then been exchanged, or if they have not then on the date of which such exchange takes place.

Done at Peking in triplicate (three in English and three in Chinese) this thirty first day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety, being the eleventh day of the second Intercalary moon of the sixteenth year of Kuang Hsü.

[L.S.] (Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.
[L.S.] (Signed) CH'ING.
" SUN YU-WEN.

16mr 561

Enclosure

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 2 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1272.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 24th, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Rent account for quarter
ending December 31st 1890.

No 1272 One enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, March 24th 1891,

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to
hand you enclosed a statement
of the Rent account of this Legation
for the Quarter Ending December
31st. 1890.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

Consular

No 1273.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 8 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

To Treas 4 May

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 27th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Publication already sent to Treasury Department

Subject.

Foreign Trade of China for 1890.

Synopsis

Statistics thereof.

No 1273.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 27th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to make the following report on the foreign trade of China for the year 1890, abstracted from the report on the foreign trade of China made by the Statistical Secretary of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

Two copies of this report have been sent to you under separate cover.

The

The Value of the Foreign Trade

The value of the foreign trade, exports and imports, was

Fr'k ℔s —

Net imports	127.093.481
Exports	87.144.480
	214.237.961

In 1889 the value was 207.832.187 — an increase of over six millions.

There was a largely increased volume of imports and a largely diminished volume of exports.

The statistical writer ascribes the diminution of exports to the rapid rise in the gold value of silver, which facilitated the sales of imports and retarded the purchases of exports. "The

Telegraphic

"telegraphic transfer price of the
"Shanghai tael on London rose
"from 4 S. 3 1/8 d. on 28th February
"to 5 S. 3 1/8 d. on 5th September,
"a difference of 33 per cent, and
"thereafter fell to 4 S. 6 3/4 d., or
"13 per cent.

The export market naturally suffered a loss of volume. During the rise of silver bills drawn on London produced such small results that exportation practically ceased.

Other causes co-operated to produce this result, as the increased competition of Ceylon and India teas and the floods which swept the plains of Chihli.

But the dominating cause was

the

the rise in silver. It will be thus seen that China is largely interested in the maintenance of the equilibrium between the two metals.

Customs Revenue

The Customs Revenue for 1890 was Kh. Tls. 21,996.226, or 172.464 over that of 1889, but export duties fell off 695.637.

Imports.

The total value of imports for 1890 was Kh Tls. 127.093.481 as against 110.763.975 in 1889— an increase of over 14 per cent.

Cotton goods increased from thirty six million taels in 1889 to forty five million taels in 1890. Cotton yarn largely increased—

a good augury for Chinese mills now beginning to turn cotton into yarn.

Iron maintained a steady consumption of 1.100,000 piculs, and steel increased 43 per cent. Coal fell off. Raw cotton increased 36 per cent.

American kerosene increased from 14-999.942 gallons in 1889, to 23.594.113 gallons in 1890; Russian from 5.655.471 gallons in 1889 to 7.237-611 gallons in 1890.

The value of imports from the United States was Hk. tls. 3-676.057 as against 3.145.712 in 1889.

Exports

The total value of exports was

Hk.

Hk tls. 87.144.480, as against 96.747.736 for 1889 - a difference of 10 per cent.

Tea fell from 1.877.331 piculs in 1889 to 1.665.396 piculs in 1890. This decline is a terrible loss for China.

Silk also fell off 16 per cent. Raw cotton fell off 200.000 piculs.

The exports to the United States amounted to Hk. tls. 8.164.748. The total trade with the United States was Hk. tls. 11.840.805 as against 10.889.785 in 1889. There was a decrease in imports and an increase in exports.

Trade of Leading Countries

The imports and exports of

the

the leading countries were, as follows:

Hongkong	104.987.605;
Great Britain	37.703.273;
Europe (Russia excepted)	11.100.961;
Japan	12.221.122.

It will be seen that Great Britain and her dependencies enjoyed of the trade of China, which amounted to Hk. tls. 214.237.969, no less than Hls. 158.990.218. In spite of all the talk about other nations encroaching on this trade, Great Britain increased her trade by Hls 9.000.000 over 1889.

The table on page 5 of the report of the statistician shows the marvellous increase of foreign

trade

trade, being from Lls. 137.976.206 in 1878 to 214,237.961 in 1890.

Shipping Statistics.

The total entries were 3.164 vessels of 2.944.000 tons against 3.179 vessels of 2.967.000 tons in 1889.

Of American vessels 155 with a tonnage of 82.946 entered in 1890, as against 178 vessels with a tonnage of 75.077 in 1889.

Treasure.

Of gold Lls. 1.783.228 and of silver 3.557.772, making a total of 5.341.000 were exported. The statistical writer is of the opinion that large amounts of gold and silver are imported into

into China by passengers on ships, no account being kept thereof. Thus he states that in the years 1887, 1888 and 1889 the known import of gold into Hongkong was $3.823.700, and the known export was $10.593.980 being a difference of $6.777.280 in three years, a surplus which came from America and Australia brought by Chinese passengers.

Open Ports.

There are twenty two open ports in China, counting Chungking. The largest of these is Canton with 1.600.000 population and the smallest is Mengtze with 12.000.

Tonnage

Tonnage Dues

Great Britain, Germany, the United States, France pay tonnage dues in the order stated; Great Britain paying Hs. 221.299 and the United States Hs. 9.547.

Values of Coins and Taels

The Haikwan tael, in which the values herein are stated, is equal, in English money to 5 S 2¼ d,

in American gold to $1.27,

" French francs " 6.47,

" German marks " 5.29,

" Mexican dollars $1.54,

at the average sight exchange on London, New York, Paris, Berlin and Hongkong respectively

for

for 1890.

The picul is equivalent to 100 catties; the catty to 1 1/3 pounds avoirdupois; the tael, in which weights are sometimes stated, to 1 1/3 ounces avoirdupois.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

The letter of Jan 22. here referred to is not recorded.

personal
unofficial

China

Peking March 27 1891

Hon Alvey A Adee

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 3 1891

My dear Sir I am in receipt of your letter of Jan 22d last relating to the debts owing by Mr Howard Martin.

Mr Martin makes his own explanation which is herewith enclosed. It is proper that I should on my own account deny some of the statements made by the anonymous writer.

No charges that I have been long aware that Mr Martin owed many thousand dollars.

My first information regarding an outstanding indebtedness came from Mr Peter Kierulff - a foreign merchant residing here - in July

last. He informed me that Mr Martin owed him £2091 or there abouts, and owed other parties large sums, making a total indebtedness of £5000.
I was very much surprised both as to the creation of such debt, as to the shameful, or negligence, of the creditors. As far as I know the miserable rule at Peking is to collect debts monthly.
Although I knew that Mr Martin occasionally gave dinners, I did not imagine that the 20 persons constituting society here - if all were entertained - would consume more than his salary. To my knowledge Mr Martin has no vices. He is an exemplary young man? in his personal habits. He was simply carried away

by an insane desire to shine socially and he has unfortunately found the way easy through the confidence and almost criminal indulgence of the tradesmen.
Kheriaff, being the only merchant who ever spoke to me about a claim, I told him that he could put the matter in the hands of Consul Bowman. I thought that even if the Consul should hold that he had no jurisdiction the publicity of the affair might stop further credit being extended and might compel the debtor to pay up.
But Kheriaff never went to the Consul but on the contrary took a note for his debt

and agreed for some time to be content with the payment of interest.

Mr Martin then transferred his patronage to Tientsin and Shanghai. What he owes at Tientsin I do not know. He owes almost and has at Shanghai $15 as they wrote me yesterday - a debt contracted between Aug 9th 1890 and Feb 25 1891.

An Argus eyed alienated had complained merchants as prone as these to call - unless he publish notice his Secretary is not to be trusted.

Mr Martin lives in his own house alone and only an unwarrantable system of espionage would enable a alienated to discover when and where he was making debts.

Mr Martin has furnished me with

list of his debts, though I suggested his doing so.

I should say that he owes more than $6000 judging by reports which chiefly come from Yarmuff.

This is the whole case. The facts speak for themselves. They require no comment nor investigation.

If the Department desires that any matter bearing the making of these debts, their actual amount &c should be investigated it can best be done as to the creditors at Trenkin and Shanghai by the Consuls there. The creditors here can be seen and their statements forwarded if desirable.

Ah Marlin informs me that he has very little property in his house. He owes a rug man here $200

which debt he can arrange.

He earnestly represents that if he be permitted to go home on leave he can secure enough money to pay his debts. Whether he will be able to do so or not I do not know.

He came to Peking a perfect stranger to me selected by the Department without my knowledge and I know nothing about his antecedents.

I regret very much that at the close of nearly six years term of office this vexatious matter has come up.

I am, Sir,

your obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Peking, March 26. 1891.

Alvey A. Adee Esqre.,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

My Minister, Col. Charles Denby, has handed me, for perusal, yours favor of the 22 Jany. last to him and marked personal and unofficial. He has suggested my answering that letter directly to you and has kindly promised to forward same as enclosure in his reply.

It causes me deep regret indeed that either the Department or my kind Chief should be embarrassed by the charges made in the anonymous note which you have been good enough to forward. Part of those charges is <u>absolutely false</u>. I deny, in toto, the statement that I am indebted to curio dealers. I do not owe one of them a penny — I do owe several thousands

of Mexican dollars here
which will be paid
in full. These debts
are due for Groceries
&c. bought for entertain-
ing — an indiscretion
most regrettable and
which I greatly deplore.
I owe not one penny
to any friend or private
person, and my largest
creditor has, sometime
since, expressed him-
self willing to let his
claim run with inter-
est and instalments

until the a/c is paid.
I have written to
personal friends in
America for the
necessary amount with
which to discharge
these debts, and hope
to receive money within
the next month.
If that money should
fail to come, I will
ask the Department
for a short leave to
return home when I
am sure I could get
the funds necessary.
If the Department should

not granted, such leave,
and I remain here
in office, I can easily
arrange to give over
most of my salary
to these tradesmen
until all is settled.
I hope you will
accept my statement
that no part of these
debts has been made
by any vice on my
part - My Minister will
bear me out in saying
I do not play, race, or
any thing of that sort

which usually lead to financial trouble.

I must object to the statement "common talk" regarding the matter. I have known for sometime past that I have an energetic enemy in the person of a former Secretary of this Legation, though I have never had the honor of meeting him. If I am correct in suspecting him as instigating this

trouble, I may state that my first account of him on arriving in Peking were to the effect that he had left here owing a large amount of money to a curio dealer which was not paid for some time after on a return visit to continue the "curio business" which he was said to pursue during his tenure of office here.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant
Howard Maitland.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 30 1891
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Legn at Tokio -
Do ack -
MAY 2 1891

DIPLOMATIC BUR
MAY 2 1891

No 1274.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 28th, 1891.

— Mr. Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

Subject.
Contemplated alliance between
Russia and Japan.

Synopsis
Reports that no such alliance
is contemplated.

— — —

No 1274.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 28th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 585, of the 31st of January 1891, wherein you transmit a copy of a despatch from the Honorable John F. Swift our Minister to Japan relative to a contemplated alliance between China and Japan. You state that the importance and interest of such a consummation suggest that I inform myself in the matter as I best may, &c.

From information I have been able

to

23 Dec 90
No 190

to gather here, no slips have been taken by either Japan or China with a view to entering into an alliance. Count Ito has not been appointed an Ambassador to this court for the purposes mentioned and has not been in Peking. In fact, he has, I believe, resigned his position as President of the Privy Council and President of the Board of Peers on account of sickness. He accepted the latter position for the first or Experimental session of the Diet which has just been conducted out of special deference to the Mikado's wishes.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure to No 1275

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 18 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1275.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 31st 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledging despatches.

No 1275.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 31st 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

No 585 of January 31st,

" 586 " February 9th,

" 587, 588, and 589 of February 10th

and No 590 of February 11th 1891.

I have specially answered No 586 and 589.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1276.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 31st 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 16 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Exemption Regulation.

Synopsis

The Minister requests that it be treated as non-avenue.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OFFICE OF SOLICITOR.
MAY 15 1891

Mem.

Mr. Cridler:

This disposes of Mr. Denby's 1202 of Nov. 20, 1890, and the regulation need not be transmitted to Congress.

The request contained in his 1186, ① of 28 Oct 90 viz: to have a reprint of the regulations in force, should now be complied with, being careful, however, to omit the regulation above, which Mr. Denby withdraws. His 1186 has been held by us in accordance with our Despatch No. 589 of Feb. 10th, waiting for this reply. This despatch may be simply acknowledged and Mr. Denby informed that reprints of the existing regulations will be made, forwarded, etc.

① 1186 is being found so we can use it. - May 16, 91. F. C. P. I am in pm.

[# See Denby 118.

No 1276.

Legation of the United States.

Peking March 31st 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 589, of the 10th of February last, relating to the proposed additional regulation to the Rules of the Consular Courts of the United States in China, touching exemption from execution of a debtor's property.

I agree with you that the

the statutes enjoin upon you in such a case no duty except to lay before Congress for revision" new regulations when finally adopted.

Nevertheless it is more suitable and prudent that the Department should be consulted before any change in existing rules is made by the Minister. There is nothing to forbid the Department, in transmitting a new regulation for revision, to state that it disapproves thereof. In such event it is not likely that Congress would approve the proposed regulation. At all events, when the Minister does

does voluntarily, as in this case, submit to the Department a proposed regulation before putting it into force, it would seem to be his duty to abide by the views of the Department on the subject.

I regard the able presentation made by you of the question of the unconstitutionality of enacting exemption laws to cover antecedent indebtedness as unanswerable, if the theory be adhered to that the Ministers in the East have no power to legislate. I have expressed my views on this construction divers times (See my despatches No 527 Dec. 15th 1887, 706 Sept 24th 1888

1868 and No 722 October 4th 1888) and I see no need of reargueing the question now.

I regard Sec. 4086 R.S.U.S. as applicable to legislation and Sec. 4117 as applicable to practice and the two sections as being distinct and separate.

The exemption regulation has never been put in force.

I respectfully desire the Department to continue to hold the said regulation and to treat it as non-avenu.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 18 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1277.

Legation of the United States.

Peking April 1st 1891.

To
Hon. R. Davis
Director Gen. of
World's Columbian
Exposition
14 May

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The World's Columbian Exposition

Synopsis

Encloses translation of China's acceptance of the President's invitation.

One enclosure.

No 1277.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 1st 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of the answer of the Foreign Office to my communication transmitting the President's invitation to China to take part in the World's Columbian Exposition, and papers connected therewith.

The Prince and Ministers request that I address to you

to

to have space reserved for the exhibit of the Chinese merchants and they express the hope that all Chinese merchants participating in the said exhibition will be properly looked after.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Foreign Office to Mr. Denby No. 7

March 27th 1891.

Enclosure in No. 127

Copy-

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 7. , Peking March 27th 1891.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 19th instant the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the United States Minister to effect that, in 1893, an exhibition, in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, will be held in the city of Chicago, State of Illinois; that the exhibition will be opened on the 1st of May of that year and continue until the 27th of October (last Tuesday in October).

The United States Minister enclosed a copy of the Act of Congress and the regulations governing the exhibition for the Prince and Ministers perusal, and stated that he had already

communicated

communicated to his government that the Yamên had consented by previous note to be represented at the said exhibition, and that the pleasure of the President would be increased by a formal acceptance on the part of China of the invitation extended. A petition from Professor Hitchcock Commissioner of the Exhibition was also enclosed in the communication under acknowledgement etc.,

In regard to this matter the Yamên some time ago addressed a note to the United States Minister to effect that as China is a long distance from Western Countries, the Emperor had not been memorialized to depute official representatives to the exhibitions held in those countries of recent years. But having now received the kindly sentiments from the United States Government, the Prince

and

and Ministers have the honor to state that action will be taken in the premises as formerly mentioned (in the Yamên's note) and that they will lose no time in addressing the Ministers Superintendent of Northern and Southern Trade, as well as instruct the Inspector General of Customs to issue notifications to the Chinese merchants at the treaty ports setting forth that if there are any desirous of sending exhibits to Chicago, all articles sent for exhibition purposes will be allowed to be exported free of duty.

The Prince and Ministers would beg the United States Minister to address the Honorable Secretary of State to have space reserved for the exhibit of Chinese merchants, and further they express the

hope

hope that all Chinese merchants participating in the said exhibition will be properly looked after.

A necessary communication addressed to

His Excellency

Charles Denby

United States Minister.

Received

No 1278.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 16 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 1st, 1891.

— Mr. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Despatch —
Enclosing duplicate Returns
Account for Quarter ending
December 31st, 1890.

———...———

No 1278. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of the Repairs Account of this Legation for the Quarter Ending December 31st, 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate Statement as above.

Dec Instructions

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. MAY 13 1891 RECEIVED.

No 1279.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 1st 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. MAY 16 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

To RS Williams 16 May

To Denby 2 Sept 91?

3 June

Subject

The new lease of the Legation premises

Synopsis

Minister recommends that provision be made in the lease for building a new building for the public offices.

See Williams letter of 5 Feb 91

No 1279.

Legation of the United States.

Peking April 1st 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 586 of the 9th February last. You therein express your desire to hear from me as to the desirability of a continuance of the present lease of the premises now occupied by the Legation.

It is impossible to procure

any

any other premises here as suitable as these are, and the lease should therefore be renewed. Nevertheless I beg leave to make the following suggestions.

The premises are much too small for the Legation. If there were four families here, as there might be, life would be a burden to the occupants. The buildings are old and require constant repairs. They ought to be all torn down and new ones built.

Since I came here I have changed all the windows and nearly all the floors and doors, and papered or painted nearly all

all the walls, and done many other things in the Minister's residence. I have also repaired walls, dug cisterns and made walks. But the work of repairs never ends. The building sinks and the doors have to be sawed off continuously.

The owners should straighten their lines by buying clear out to the back street. Now several miserable little Chinese houses jut into the compound over whose roofs robbers enter at their pleasure. But such extensive changes are in all likelihood impossible and need not

be

be discussed. One may live here in ordinary comfort by prudent use of the repair allowance. My successor will find a paradise compared with the hovel into which I entered.

There are, however, some suggestions of practical utility which I feel called on to renew.

I beg leave to refer you to my despatch No 612 of April 3rd 1888, wherein I discuss at some length the necessity of erecting a new building for the public offices. I need now do no more than emphasize the recommendations therein made.

The

The archives increase here at about the rate of twenty books a year. The library increases largely every year. It should be seen to that proper provision against fire is made for the archives. If they were destroyed they could not be reproduced, as the Department has only it's own correspondence with the Minister and his despatches to it, and has no copies of the voluminous correspondence with the Consuls or the miscellaneous or naval correspondence.

I drew the existing lease myself, with great care, but if I were framing a new one now

I would, if possible, add a clause that the owners should tear down the existing "office" building and erect a new one corresponding to the suggestion made in my despatch above cited. It occurs to me that the owners would probably agree to erect a new and suitable building for the offices if the Department would agree to increase the rent to an amount sufficient to pay interest on the investment. I recommend that a serious effort be made to accomplish this purpose.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

No 1280.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 16 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 1st, 1891.

Wm. Woodville Rockhill.
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Statement of salary account
for quarter ending March 31st
1891.

No 1280 One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my salary account for the quarter ending the 31st March 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Statement as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 16 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1281.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 1st, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Post Account for quarter
Ending March 31st, 1891.

No 1281. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward Enclosed a Statement of the Post Account of this Legation for the Quarter ending the 31st of March 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 13 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1282.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 1st, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Despatch

Statement of Passports issued during Quarter Ending March 31st. 1891.

Original application filed in Passport Bureau

No 1282 One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a Statement of Passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ending March 31st 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Statement as above.

STATEMENT OF PASSPORTS

ed at the Legation of the United States at Peking,

from January 1st, 1891, to March 31st, 1891.

To accompany Dispatch No. ____, of ____, 18____

DATE.	TO WHOM ISSUED.	NUMBER.	EVIDENCE ON WHICH ISSUED.	FEE.
ary 26	Simmons E. J.	627	Charles Denby U.S. Consul General Canton	$ 1.
"	Foster John M.	628	Passport 587, issued by Charles Denby U.S. Minister	"
"	Noyes Henry T.	629	Charles Denby U.S. Consul, Canton.	"
"	Hilderbrandt John H.	630	Charles Denby U.S. Consul, Canton.	"
31	Bergin Paul D.	631	Passport 314, issued by John Russell Young U.S. Minister	"
ch 16	Warner George	632	W. S. Emens	"
24	Reilly Hugh W.	633	W. S. Emens	"
20	Rautzgirnit Olof J.	634	W. S. Emens.	"

Charles Denby
United States Minister

Kiechhoefer

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 13 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

Despatch.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 1st, 1891.

W. F. D. Sherburne
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.
Enclosing Salary Account
for Quarter Ending March
31st, 1891.

Separate. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Washington, DC.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my salary account for the quarter ending March 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

F. D. Chamberlain.

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

McCurdy

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
MAY 14 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1283.

Legation of the United States!
Peking, April 2d, 1891.

(and 18 encs)

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 15 1891

Mr Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

— Subject. —

The refusal of Russia to allow an American Missionary to travel through Siberia to Scotch.

Perrin
No 447 of 31 mar 90 to Dept

No 215 of Jan 6-90. to Pratt -

Turkey -
From King - 29 Oct 89 - (no 42)

Russia
From Curtis - Dec 16. 89 (no 72)
To " Nov 19 89 " 62

No 1283. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 2d 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to inform you that some weeks ago I applied to the Chargé d'Affairs of Russia at Peking, to know if he would visé a passport enabling Rev Paul D. Bergen, an American Missionary, residing at Shi Tsan Fu, to travel through Siberia en route to the United States.

I was informed that no ecclesiastic could go through Siberia without

Mr

the consent of the Ministry of the Interior, and that that officer would be telegraphed to on the subject. I received to day from the Chargé d'Affaires of Russia a communication, a copy of which is herewith Enclosed, wherein I am informed that permission to Mr. Bergen to go through Siberia is denied.

1283.

It seems that the Russian Government does not allow evangelists to go through the Russian provinces for fear of attempts at proselytism, riots and other mischief.

I simply report this incident as matter of current information leaving to you to determine what action, if any, should

be

be taken in the premises.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Wm. B Weimouse to Colonel Denby

March 31st, 1891.

Copy. Enclosure 1. with despatch No 1283.

Legation de France
En Chine.

Pekin, le 31me Mars 1891.

Monsieur le Ministre,

En reply to your request to certify a passport for Mr Thorvald Paul S Bigen, I sent a telegram to the Foreign Office at St Petersburg and I am just now receiving an answer stating that the Ministry of the Interior found it quite impossible at the present to grant this request.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) C Pleimenow

His Excellency
Colonel Charles Denby
Minister of the United States
&c, &c, &c,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 13 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1284

Legation of the United States,
Peking. April 3. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

✓ and May 13/91. A.M.G.

Subject.

Claim of Mr. M. A. Jenkins against Lekin Office

Synopsis.

Encloses copy of Mr. Andrews' despatch describing the pieces of drills seized.

No. 1284

Legation of the United States,
Peking, April 3. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
enclose, herewith, a copy
of a despatch received
from Consul Andrews,
at Nankow, which answers
the questions propounded in
your despatch No. 569 of
Decr. 10. last, relating to
Mr. Jenkins' claim for
damages for the seizure

of

of 83 pieces of Drills by the Lekin Office. It seems that the pieces seized contained forty yards each and had been "stretched through and through as a bed comfort is tacked." They were spread over the goods in the boats. Of the 83 pieces taken, 16 were on the Transit Pass and were offered to be surrendered. It will be very difficult to convince the Chinese Government that such goods as Drills worth Taels 229.60 can be sent up the river past the Lekin boats without paying Lekin or Transit Passes duty simply

treaties

because they are used to cover other goods. But the claim will be presented by this Legation if you so order.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

No. 1 dispatch (copy) of Consul Andrews.

of 83 pieces of Drills by the Lekin Office. It seems that the pieces seized contained forty yards each and had been "stretched through and through as a bed comfort is tacked." They were spread over the goods in the boats. Of the 83 pieces taken, 16 were on the Transit Pass and were offered to be surrendered. It will be very difficult to convince the Chinese Government that such goods as Drills worth Taels 229.60 can be sent up the river past the Lekin boats without paying Lekin or Transit Passes duty simply

treaties

because they are used to cover other goods. But the claim will be presented by this Legation if you so order.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

No. 1 Despatch (copy) of Consul Andrews.

Kiaukow, China, 17 March 1891.

N. E. Charles Denby, Esq.,
U. S. Legation,
Peking.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your despatches No. 94 of 10 Febry. & 95 of 23d Febry. 1891. In regard to the claim of Mr. Jenkins for the release of goods confiscated by the Likin officers, I would say in further explanation, as the matter has been referred to Peking for settlement I have taken no further steps in the matter here. In answer to the questions propounded would say "Package" & "Piece" as used in my former despatch, differ in this way; a package contains a number of pieces done up in a suitable shape for shipment under a cover of some kind and suitably fastened either

with

with ropes, hoops, or rattan.
These packages varied in
number of pieces in this
shipment, there being from
14 to 28 pieces in each packag
These pieces running of varion
lengths, depending on the differ.
ent kinds of goods. The Drills
in question 40 yards to the
piece. It is the same shape as
a "piece" of such goods is
commercially known in the U. S.
I would state the whole shipment
consisted of 108 packages and
16 pieces and were shipped
through the custom house on
19 Passes. I enclose a list of
packages as called for in each
pass. You will notice the 10
pieces and the 6 pieces were
plainly stated on the proper
pass, nevertheless they were
taken with the 67 pieces.
The pieces taken, 83 in all
were pieces (40 yds. ea.) that

were

were opened out and then folded flat into strips about 8 ft. long and as thick as this number of yards would make. Then this flat strip was stitched through and through as a bed comfort is tacked, thus holding the different folds in place and the whole making a thick covering, capable of resisting a large amount of rain, about 8 ft. long and 30 or 31 in wide. These pieces were spread over the cargo on the various boats. I did not before lay any stress on the no. of yds. or value of goods seized, as I felt so sure they could be gotten back by an order from Peking and the case to me seemed so plain. Now it being very questionable if the same goods could be redelivered to me, it seems proper to put

Claim

claim in pieces and Tails.
There were 33 pcs. Drill valued
at Rs 2.70 per piece (1320) yds.
making Tails 89.10
25 pcs Drill 2.86 pr. pce. 71.50
" " 2.76 " " 69
Making 83 pieces value 229.60
This being actual spot cost
with no charges. In addition
to this there is a duty paid
on the 16 pcs. entered in
Drawit Pass 9 5 cand. and
the interest on the cash
value from date of seizure
until settled.

(Signed) Henry W. Andrews
U. S. Consul.

Memorandum of 108 Packages.

		Pcs.	Pass
2	Bales English Shirting	28	1
5	" Grey Shirting	85	1
12	" "	282	1
2	" Dyed Cotton Italians	64	
	4 pcs Grey Shirting	4	1
2	" Dyed Cotton Italians	64	
	4 pcs Grey Shirting	4	1
3	" D'cloth	90	1
6	" Am. Drill	84	1
1	" Lasting	11	1
	Grey Shirting	2	
2	" Eng. Jean	48	1
2	" White Shirting	50	1
4	" Grey "	92	1
10	" " "	230	1
14	" Am. Drills	191	1
21	" "	294	
	6 Loose pieces	6	1
4	English Jean	96	1
2	"	48	1
4	Am. Drills	56	1
2	Eng. Shirtings	28	1
10	Am. Drills	130	1
	10 Loose pieces	10	

108 packages + 16 " " used as covering 19 Pass cloths.

Sep. Mr. Wiesbaden for

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking April 7th 1891.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Salary and exchange accounts.

two enclosures.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 7th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my salary account for the quarter ending March 31st 1891, and my account for loss by exchange thereon.

Against the salary account I have drawn my draft on Messrs. Morton Rose & Co in the usual way, and against the loss by exchange thereon on the Hon. Secretary of State.

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Second Secretary.

Enclosures

As above.

Duplicate.

Sep. Miscellaneous

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, April 8. 1890.

Mr. Martin
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Salary and Exchange Loss accounts.

Dep.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, April 8. 1890.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inclose, herewith, my salary account for quarter ending March 31, and my account for Loss by Exchange. For the last I have drawn the usual draft on Washington.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Howard Mattoon.

Received per

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

Despatch.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 15th, 1891.

Wm. F. Sherman
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Enclosing duplicate statement of salary account for quarter Ending March 31st 1891.

Separate. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 15th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my account for salary for the quarter ending the 31st of March 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

F. D. Chesebro.

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure. Duplicate statement as above.

Nicholas

Despatch.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 16th, 1891.

Wm. F. D. Sherburne
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Transmitting account for
loss by Exchange for quarter
ended March 31st, 1891.

Separate. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 16th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you Enclosed, a statement of my account for loss by Exchange, for the quarter ended March 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

F.D. Cheshire.

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure 1. Statement as above.

Inclosure

Separate.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
June 4 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 4 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 27th, 1891.

— Wm. F. D. Dunbar —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Enclosing duplicate
Statement of Account for Loss
by Exchange for quarter
Ending March 31st, 1891.

— — — —

Separate. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 27th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand you enclosed duplicate "Statement of my account for Bills by Exchange for the Quarter Ending the 31st of March 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

F.D. Chester

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure 1. Duplicate Statement as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1285.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 10th, 1891.

Wm Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Endosing Statement of
Account for Contingent Expenses
for Quarter Ending March 31st 1891.

No 1285. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 10th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir.—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my account for Contingent Expenses for the quarter ending March 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Statement as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 8 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1286.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 11th, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

— Subject —

Enclosing Duplicate Statement
of Rent Account for quarter
Ending December 31st, 1890.

No 1286. One Enclosure.

Peking, April 11th, 1891.

To the Honorable
James G Blaine,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a duplicate Statement of the Rent Account of this Legation for the Quarter Ending December 31st, 1890.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.
Duplicate Statement as above.

File
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1287.

Legation of the United States.

Peking. April 13th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Acknowledging despatches

Synopsis

Corrects error in numbering.

No 1287.

Legation of the United States.

Peking April 13th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches No 591 of the 24th Feb., No 592, 593, 594 and 595 of the 25th Feb., No 596 of the 26th Feb., and No 597 of the 2nd March.

Your despatch No 597, of March 2nd, reports as not having been received despatches from this

Legation

numbered 1191 and 1203 and reports the number 1189 and 1218 in duplicate. These numbers are not duplicated on the register of correspondence of the legation and their duplication on the despatches sent to the Department is due to a clerical error. The two missing numbers are probably those despatches bearing duplicate numbers.

In order to rectify the error I beg to submit a copy of the register of correspondence showing the despatches sent by this legation to the Department.

No. 1188 Nov. 6th, Chicago World's Exposition;
" 1189 " " 7th Kiralfy Theatre licence;

No

No 1190 Nov. 7th Chinanfu troubles;

" 1191 " " " Brick Tea;

" 1192 " 12th Chinanfu troubles;

" 1193 " 14th Dup. Contingent Ex. Act;

" 1194 " " " Repairs ";

" 1195 " " The Columbian Exposition;

" 1196 " 17th Limitation of Transit Passes;

" 1197 " 15th The Powers of Censors in China;

" 1198 " " Chinese Embassy to Corea;

" 1199 " 15th The Duty of China to Corea;

" 1200 " " The Yellow River;

" 1201 " 18th Acknowledging Despatches;

" 1202 " 20th Exemption Regulations;

" 1203 " 24th Encloses copy of No 1037;

" 1204 " " Death of Viceroy Nêng.

Should the missing numbers not be among these, duplicates will be forwarded at once.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1288.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 15th, 1891.

Wm Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Enclosing duplicate statement
of salary account for quarter
Ending March 31st, 1891.

No. 1288. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 15th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to

send you enclosed duplicate statement

of my account for salary for

the quarter ending March 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1.

Duplicate statement as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1289.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, April 15th, 1891.

Wm Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Enclosing duplicate Statement
of Post Tavern for Quarter
Ending March 31st, 1891.

No 1289. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 15th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to Enclose duplicate Statement of the Rent Account of this Legation for the Quarter Ending March 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate Statement as above.

Received

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 3 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1290.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 15th, 1891.

Mr. Charles Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Enclosing duplicate statement of Passports issued during quarter Ending March 31st, 1891.

Mr. Denby

No. 1291.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. JUN 3 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. JUN 3 1891 RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, April 20th, 1891.

— Hon. Charles Denby —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Enclosing duplicate statement of Contingent Expenses account for quarter Ending March 31st, 1891.

— — — — —

No 1291 One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 20th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my account for Contingent Expenses for the quarter ending March 31st, 1891.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. Duplicate statement as above.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file
JUN 5 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 4 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1292

Rec'd June 15

Legation of the United States,
Peking, April 21. 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 5 1891

1

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Re Seizure at Anping of Kerosene belonging to Meuse Russell & Co.

Synopsis.
Encloses a communication to the Yamen covering all the facts.

No. 1292.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, April 21. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent by me this day to the Foreign Office. I therein demand redress for the wrongful seizure by the Lekin official at Anping, in the Island of Formosa, of fifty boxes of Kerosene

Oil

oil claimed by Messrs.
Russell & Co. to be their
property. The facts are
fully set forth in the
enclosure. The Lekin
officials defend the seizure
by the assertion that the
Kerosene did not belong
to the Russells, but to a
Chinese firm at Anping.
Besides the unlawful seizure
of the Kerosene, there was,
it is claimed, a wrongful
entry by the Lekin Officials
into a "hong" occupied
by Messrs. Russell & Co.
I have directed the Consul
at Amoy to send me
affidavits as to the ownership

of

of the Kerosene, and to keep the Legation informed of any further developments in the case.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

One enclosure.

The Minister's communication to the Foreign Office.

Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office

No. 9 Peking, April 21. 1891.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor
to inform Your Highness
and Your Excellencies that
I have received from the
Consul of the United States
at Amoy a statement of
very serious wrongs and
injuries that have been
perpetrated against the
american firm of Russell
& Co. at Tainan.

On the 3d of March last
the Likin officials at Anping
seized at the port of Anping
fifty boxes of Kerosene,

the

the property of Messrs. Russell & Co. The agent of Messrs Russell & Co. demanded possession of the boat and cargo, but the Lekin officials refused to release them unless the Lekin tax were paid together with a fine. The agent refused to pay the tax or fine because the levy of Lekin on foreign goods in a Treaty Port is illegal. The acting consul of the United States at Tainan communicated the facts to the Taotai without any remedy being proposed by this official.

The

The Taotai answered simply that the Kerosene oil in question was the property of a Chinese firm. The Consul replied that the Oil was the property of Messrs. Russell & Co. and not of the Chinese firm in question, the head of which firm was the Comprador of Messrs Russell & Co. He stated also that the levy of taxes on foreign owned goods within a Treaty Port whether they were in the possession of foreign or Chinese Merchants was illegal and that the

Chinese

Chinese Officials would be held responsible for any injury caused to Messrs. Russell & Co's. business by their illegal actions. The head of the Chinese firm in question had been in the employment of Messrs. Russell & Co., as Comprador, since last November under a contract made and executed in the presence of the acting Consul. Since the 21st of last November, Messrs. Russell & Co. have used their Comprador's "hong" as their place of business

in

in the suburbs of the city.
The name of "Russell & Co."
is over the door of the house
and all persons know
that the premises are
in their occupation.
On the 12th of last March
certain police runners
holding a warrant
issued by the Anping
Magistrate, acting under
the orders of the Taotai,
forcibly entered the "hong"
in question and attempted
to arrest the Comprador -
one of the foreign employes
of Messrs. Russell & Co. pointed
out that the Magistrate's
warrant had no force

in

in an American "hong" unless endorsed by the Consul, and warned the police runners that their proceedings were illegal. After some argument the runners withdrew but have since strictly blockaded the "hong" avowing their intention to arrest the comprador if he sets foot into the street. Messrs. Russell & Co's. business has consequently come to a standstill as neither the comprador nor his employes dare to leave the "hong".

A

A minor trouble arose over an accusation that the Compradore was evading the payment of Lekin on seventy baskets of Sugar. The Consul enquired into the ownership of the Sugar and finding that Messrs. Russell & Co. had no interest in it advised the Compradore to pay the Lekin. Accordingly the "Godown" Keeper of Messrs Russell & Co's "Chong" was despatched to the Lekin office to tender the usual Lekin bond. The officials in charge received the bond, but at once arrested the

man

man and sent him into
the Magistrate's Yamen,
where he was, at my latest
advices still confined, the
object being to force him
to confess that he is not
in Messrs. Russell & Co's employ
but simply in that of the
Chinese firm in question.
The acting Consul states
that "For these proceedings
there is no shadow of
an excuse. No attempt has
been made by the Compra-
dore to evade the Lekin
on his sugar and the
sole object of the officials
is to harrass the Chinese
employes of Messrs. Russell
& Co.

&Co. as much as possible
in hope that by thus
impeding their business
they may be induced
to give in and pay the
Lekin, which is illegally
sought to be levied on
their Kerosene oil."
The Consul on March 15
telegraphed the whole
circumstances of the case
to the Governor of the
Island and received a
reply to the effect that
the officials must have
had some cause for their
action and that the Taotai
had been instructed to
release the goods on
payment

payment of Lekin.

The Chinese officials have been notified by the acting Consul at Tainan that they will be held responsible for all damage that Messrs. Russell & Co. may suffer on account of their unwarrantable action. When these facts were reported to the American Consul at Amoy, (in whose jurisdiction the Island of Formosa is situated) this official wired the Governor of Formosa demanding redress. He also telegraphed the Taotai at Tainan for

for

for redress of the injuries above described. The Taotai still insisted that the case was one in which a Chinese merchant attempted to evade the payment of debts, and that the property in question did not belong to the American firm. The Governor telegraphed the Taotai's views of the matter and refused all redress. Other telegrams followed between the parties, but no result was arrived at.

March 26, the United States Consul at Amoy took passage at Amoy

for

for Dornoch. On his arrival he sent in his official card to the Governor and asked for an interview at the convenience of the Governor. The Governor answered that he would receive the Consul at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. At that hour the Consul presented himself at the Governor's mansion, and was informed that the Governor could not receive him on account of sickness. The next day the Consul tried again to see the Governor, but the Governor refused to see him.

him and did not send
to him any message
whatever. Thereupon, the
Consul, believing that
his further stay in
Formosa was useless,
departed for Amoy, leaving
in the hands of the
Vice-Consul at Tapeipi
the charge of the matter,
with instructions to do
whatever could be done
to bring the matter to
a successful and satis-
factory result. Having
recited the facts as they
have reached me from
the communications of
the Consul at Amoy and
the

the Vice-Consul of the United States at Tainan, I have only to add a few observations on the international law as based on the Treaties subsisting between China and the foreign Powers. This whole proceeding was unlawful and contrary to the Treaties in the following particulars.

1.st Goods belonging to American citizens were seized in an open or Treaty Port.

2.d A serious attempt was made to arrest

an

an employe of an
American firm in the
"hong" of said firm
without authority from
the American Consul.
3d. The business of an
American firm has
been broken up and
destroyed on the pretense
that goods belonging to
the said firm belonged
to a Chinese subject.
4th. The American Consul at
Amoy has been treated
with great indignity
in being refused an
interview with the
Governor of Formosa
after the hour for

his

his reception had been
specifically fixed by the
Governor.
At the present writing
I am unable to say what
the actual amount of
damages suffered by
Messrs. Russell & Co. is,
but I shall present an
accurate statement thereof
as soon as it can be had.
I beg that Your Highness
and Your Excellencies
will take immediate action
to rectify the wrongful
acts above detailed,
and to see that the local
authorities do not further
complicate the matter

by

(2) By committing new outrages against my countrymen, and that they be directed to compensate Messrs. Russell & Co. for the losses sustained already in their business.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 6 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 4 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1293.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, April 21. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Acknowledges despatches.

No. 1293.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, April 21. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine
Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt
of your despatches
Nos. 598 dated March 10.
" 599 " " 11.
" 600. 601. 602 " " 12.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Scanlan

No 1294.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Referred to Bureau of Statistics
Ack. as Mr. Scanlan may direct
JUN 5 1891 agay

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 4 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, April 24th 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 5 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The manufacture of "white-wax"

Filed for publication.

Ack'g Subject 11 June

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 9 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 4 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1295.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, April 30. 1891.

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

The opening of Chunking.

Synopsis.

Encloses notice from the Yamen. States that Chungking is within Mr. Andrews jurisdiction.

No. 1295

Legation of the United States,

Peking, April 30. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of a communication from the Tsungli Yamên of the 27th instant wherein it informs me that Chungking is open to Americans. Notice to that effect has already been given.

Some question having arisen

on

on the Jangtze as to whether Chungking is embraced in the Consular jurisdiction of the Consul at Hankow. I have requested the James to notify all the officials at the two cities that Chungking is within Mr. Andrews' jurisdiction. Such is the effect, Sect. 30. Cons. Regs. 1888.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One Enclosure
Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 9. Peking. April 27. 1891.

Your Excellency:

Some time ago the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from your Excellency to effect that Chungking having been made an open port you had notified citizens of the United States that the port is open to them for the purpose of trade and residence, &c. The Prince and Ministers would observe that by the terms of the additional article

of

of the Chefoo agreement entered into between the Governments of Great Britain and China, Chunking was declared opened as a Treaty Port from the 18th of January 1891. The Customs establishment was opened on the 1st March. The acting Taotai of Chunking and the Commissioner of Customs have prepared Custom House Rules to be enforced as an experiment, which have been transmitted to the Yamên by the Taotai, and on publication of same a copy will be sent to Your Excellency. In the meantime, however,

the

the Prince and Ministers have the honor to enclose a copy of the Chinese text of the additional article of the Treaty referred to for Your Excellency's keeping.

In future all citizens of the United States going to Chunking shall be placed under the same rules and regulations that govern British Merchants in all matters of trade and duties.

The Prince and Ministers have the honor to request Your Excellency to issue instructions to citizens of the United States to comply therewith.

A necessary Communication &c.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 5 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1296.

Legation of the United States.

Peking May 2nd 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 18 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Likin troubles at Anping

Formosa.

Synopsis

Encloses communication from the Yamen. States present condition of the affair. Asks authority to present claim of Russell & Co.

One enclosure.

No 1296.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 2nd 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of the answer to my communication to the Foreign Office touching the troubles in Formosa, a copy whereof was forwarded to you with my despatch No 1292 of the 21st ult.

It will be seen that the Yamên, while stating that it knows

knows nothing of the facts and awaits a report thereof from the local authorities and will then again communicate with me, still jumps at certain adverse conclusions and makes an argument based on frivolous deductions from the facts stated by me.

If my stay in Peking were not so limited, I would ask permission to go to Formosa to investigate this troublesome affair. But, as I have been advised that my successor will probably reach Peking in July, I am unable to be absent at this time.

This affair has created an

immense

immense excitement among
foreigners in the open ports.
It seems that the compradore
of Messrs Russell & Co. was also
the head of a Chinese firm
engaged in business at Anping.
The Chinese officials claim that
the boatmen told them that the
kerosene which was seized
belonged to the Chinese firm
and that the compradore was
seeking to avoid the payment
of likin. As the Chinese firm
was doing business in the hong
occupied by Russell & Co., the
officials claim that they had
the right to arrest him in
that hong. As the right of
arrest was denied, the officials

have

have been guarding the Long,
in order to catch the
compradore when he leaves
it. Russell & Co. regard this
conduct as being an infringement
of their rights and have
practically abandoned their
business and will claim heavy
damages.

I deplore this result and
have urged on the Consul at
Amoy to see that some modus
vivendi is arrived at by which
the questions at issue may be
relegated to Peking or, possibly,
to a joint inquisition, and
business may go on as usual.

I am now informed by a
despatch from the Consular

Agent,

agent, Mr. Warren, at Taiwan, that the compradore, under Chinese influences, will probably confess that the oil seized belonged to him.

Altogether the case is very complicated and troublesome. I regret that it has arisen when I was about, as I thought, to turn over to my successor nearly a clear docket.

So far as this case affects the general interests, the diplomatic body will take it up, but such assistance will be of little benefit to this Legation. Neither here, nor elsewhere, is there much trouble in settling controversies where the facts are

are completely ascertained. In this case there is violent contradiction of alleged facts.

As the personal instructions require the Minister to report the facts of a claim to the Department and to ask authority for its presentation to a foreign government, before presenting any claim, I deem it advisable, in order to save time, to ask your authority now to present this claim.

The Consul at Amoy seems to be exceedingly anxious that an American Man-of-war be sent to Amping. As there is no probability that personal violence or indignity will be

be offered to Americans, I am not inclined to ask the Admiral — who has only three ships at his disposal — to send one to Anping. But the Barundia case has settled forever that the naval commanders act independently of the diplomatic body, and the Admiral may, therefore, on his own motion despatch a ship to Tomora. Should he do so and should Mr. Bedloe sail in the vessel, I have enjoined on him to exercise judgement and discretion.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure

Foreign Office to Mr. Denby,

No 10 April 28th 1891.

Enclosure in No. 1296

Copy.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 10. April 28th 1891.

Your Excellency:

Upon the 21st inst., the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from Your Excellency, stating that you had received, from the Consul of the United States at Amoy, a statement of very serious wrongs and injuries that had been perpetrated by the local authorities, against the American firm of Russell & Co, at Taiwan, and Your Excellency requested that immediate action be taken to rectify the wrongful acts detailed, &c.

With reference to this case the Yamên has not received any report from the Governor of Formosa about it, hence there is no way of entirely understanding. But the Prince and Ministers cannot

but

but make some observations to Your Excellency from the statements sent by the said Consul.

According to the statement of the Consular Agent the oil was the property of Messrs Russell & Co and not of the Chinese firm, the head of which firm is the compradore of Messrs Russell & Co. Again he states that the head of the Chinese firm in question had been in the employment of Russell & Co, as compradore, since last November under a contract made and executed in the presence of the Consular agent; that since the 21st of last November Messrs Russell & Co have used their compradore's Long as their place of business in the suburbs of the city (outside the west gate on the Kung How Street); that the name

of

of Russell & Co is over the door of the house etc.

Now since the Consular Agent says that the said hong is a Chinese hong, it cannot be said to be an American hong. The said Chinese merchant being the head partner in the Chinese firm, the goods that he conveys are naturally goods of a Chinese merchant and, moreover, could not be said to belong to Russell & Co. Besides a compradore is an employee of a foreign merchant. It is not that a foreign merchant, on the other hand, does his business in the hong of his compradore. Since the statement made "in the hong of the compradore" then in that case it may be known that the goods in question were the property of the compradore. It is clearly apparent that the

compradore

compradore was engaged in illicit business, and hence (the order) for his arrest, and he falsely uses a pretext and avails himself of the foreign merchant to come forward and contest the matter for him. A similar condition of things exists at all the ports and cannot be avoided.

There is a difference between a foreign hong and a compradore. It cannot be that there is no distinction between them. For instance, take the case of Chen Ze-chi, who was compradore in the firm of Russell & Co and who used their capital for trading purposes, and after the money had been lost Russell & Co have been persistent in prosecuting him but the case as yet remains unsettled.

If it is to be said that

the

the said Chinese merchant is also the compradore of Russell & Co, the establishment of the Chinese firm by him is to be regarded as an American firm, and the business of the Chinese firm is the business of Russell & Co, then in that case, the losses formerly made by Chen Ze-chi would also be regarded as the losses of Russell & Co and why should that firm prosecute him? Putting this case in the same category this would appear manifest and naturally clear without any argument.

Again it is stated that the said compradore had evaded the payment of the likin on seventy baskets of sugar, that the Consular agent inquired into the ownership of the sugar, and finding that it belonged to the Compradore's

firm

firm and that Russell & Co had no interest in it, &c.

Now since the consular agent stated that Russell & Co were doing their business in said compradore's Long, how is it that he further states that (the sugar) belonged to the compradore and that Russell & Co had no interest in it? Since he says Russell & Co had no interest in it, how is it that the godown keeper of Russell & Co was despatched to the likin office to tender the likin bond? All these statements are a self contradiction of terms.

The consular agent at Taiwan and the consul at Amoy, it is to be feared, have not presented a report giving the real facts and all the circumstances, and the Yamên still hopes that Your Excellency will thoroughly

investigate

investigate the matter.

The said Chinese merchant (head partner) having smuggled goods several times, the magistrate issued his warrant for his arrest in a Chinese Long. The arrest was not to be made in an American Long, hence why should it be necessary for the consular agent to first endorse the warrant? The employees of the said Long, fearing arrest, do not venture out of the Long to do business. The fault, however, lies with them. Why should the local authorities be called upon to pay indemnity? As to the statement of the Amoy consul that the Governor refused to see him at the appointed hour, and that he had been treated with great indignity, the Yamên would observe that the Governor of Formosa, on

account

account of ill-health, has applied for leave, and frequent requests of this kind have appeared in the Peking Gazette. It was not on account of the consul asking for an interview that the Governor made the excuse of being sick, and it cannot be held that he acted discourteously.

As Your Excellency has addressed the Yamên upon the case in question, as a matter of course the Prince and Ministers will write to the Governor to investigate the causes thereof and to submit a report embodying the true facts, when they will then take action in the premises. In the meantime they have the honor to address this communication for Your Excellency's information.

a

A necessary communication
addressed to

His Excellency,

Charles Denby,

" " "

Peking.

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Seen and approved.
JUN 8 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 5 1891
RECEIVED.
12 M

No. 1297

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 2. 1891.

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 8 1891

Subject

The land conveyed for Hospital uses to the United States on Sulangsu.

Synopsis.

Encloses communication to the claimant advising him that he will not be aided by the minister to secure title.

No. 1297

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 2. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose to you a copy of my reply to Dr. Patrick Manson, who wrote to me asking that the United States would assist him in acquiring title to certain land on the island of Kulangsu. I do not deem it necessary to forward

the

the voluminous papers in the case, as the Department is no doubt in possession of all the records relating to this question.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure
Minister's reply to Dr. Manson.

Mise No. 23

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 2. 1891.

Dr. Patrick Manson,

Amoy.

Sir:

In answer to your communication to me, forwarded by Mr. Francis Cass, in February last, I have to say that I submitted the same to the American Consul at Amoy and am now in possession of his report thereon. It appears that in June 1871, the acting Sub. Prefect of Amoy conveyed to the United States Government certain

lots

lots of land" as sites whereon
to erect a hospital and
physician's residence"
Evidently this conveyance
must be treated as a
deed upon condition
subsequent that a hospital
and a physician's residence
shall be maintained on
the said premises. The
Government of the United
States holds the land
as a trustee to carry out
the well defined purpose
of erecting and maintain-
ing a hospital thereon.
It can do no act in contra-
vention of the trust without
forfeiture of its title, just

as

as you can do no act in
contravention of your lease
without forfeiting your
possession. Your petition
to me is that the land
shall be granted to you
"on the best terms that
the original grant from
the Chinese authorities
to the U. S. Consul will
cover." As the original
grant specifically provides
for the erection and main-
tenance of a hospital, the
only terms that could be
granted would be such
as would execute that
trust. It is, therefore,
entirely apparent that

the

the premises must be devoted to hospital use, or that they will be forfeited to the Chinese Government - an event which the foreign community at Amoy, most probably, would not approve. I cannot for the above reasons aid you in your purpose to secure title to the said land.

(Signed)

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 22 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 20 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1298

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 7 1891.
Rec'd 22 June

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack by subject & file
JUN 22 1891

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State

Subject

The Lekin troubles in Formosa. (outing)

Synopsis

Encloses copy of communication to Tsungli Yamen.

No. 1298

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 7. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
enclose, herewith, a copy
of my reply to the com-
munication of the Foreign
Office which is enclosed
in my despatch No. 1296
of May 2. relating to the
Lekin troubles in Formosa.
I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your

Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

One Enclosure

May. 7. 1891.

Your Highness and

Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication of Your Highness and Your Excellencies of the 28th ult.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies begin by making the statement that having received our report from the Governor of Dominica you cannot entirely understand the case. Nevertheless you proceed to make several criticisms upon the statement of facts presented by me and you draw some strange deductions therefrom.

My

My expectation in writing to you was that you would issue immediate orders whereby the unnecessary guarding of a house occupied by Americans and the complete destruction of the business of the firm of Messrs Russell & Co. at Amoy might cease. The original question whether the Governor seized should pay a few dollars likin might surely have been settled without a recourse to oppressive and wrongful acts. In all cases of this nature the first thing to do is to ascertain the facts.

When

When they are known, the principles of justice and equity which abide in all countries will point out a just settlement of the controverted question.

The main issue to settle in this case is whether the American Merchants owned the coal oil that was seized. If they did all the acts done by the Libin authorities were illegal and wrongful. The immediate and simple remedy would have been to investigate calmly and impartially, if necessary before a joint commission, the title to the kerosene.

The

The hot and fiery conduct of the Lekin authorities indicate great want of discretion. Such cases have repeatedly occurred in China, but in the hands of prudent men no such trouble as this has grown out of them. Your Highness and Your Excellencies owe to think that because the goods in question had been stored in a hong in which the Compradore's firm was doing business they necessarily belonged to the compradore. If my horse, therefore, is found in your stable he

remain

necessarily belongs to you.
It is represented to me
that the hong was in the
possession of Messrs.
Russell & Co, and in charge
of their foreign employés.
If there were a joint and
general occupation of the
hong by Messrs Russell & Co,
and the Chinese firm,
I cannot see why each firm
may not have owned
separate any property
therein stored. Your Highness
and Your Excellencies assert
that the Comprador was
engaged in illicit business.
As you know nothing about
the facts except what I wrote

I

I do not know how you
got this piece of information
Certainly there is nothing
in my communication
that goes to show that the
Compradore was undertaken
or has undertaken to com-
mit fraud. Your allusion
to the "case of Chun Dee
Che" is particularly un-
fortunate. You ask why
his employers showed pros-
ecute him if he was doing
their business. The answer
is that he stole his employ-
money. He gave bond good
for six times the debt he
owed, and although Messrs.
Russell & Co have done all

they

they owed to collect their money they have only received a small pittance. The incident of the sugar which has no particular bearing on the main question simply shows that the Consular agent is honest and when he finds that the sugar belonged to the Chinese firm, he advises the Compradore to pay the Likin. The Comperadore does not seem to have done any act looking to the avoidance of payment of Likin. It is not very difficult to understand that the compradore's

firm

firm may have had sugar
in one part of the house
and Messrs. Russell & Co
may have had kerosene
in another part.
Your Highness and Your
Excellencies do not under-
stand why the go-down
keeper of Messrs. Russell &
was sent to arrange about
the Likin on the sugar.
I suppose the reason was
that it was supposed as
the other employes of
Messrs. Russell & Co. would
be arrested if they went to the
Likin office, and that the
go-down keeper might escape
arrest. This hope seems

to

to have been vain. He was arrested, but what he was arrested for it is impossible for any body to find out. It was simply a high handed, wrongful act, without any excuse whatever. Your Highness and Your Excellencies say that the Consul at Amoy has not given the real facts. This is a curious declaration coming from you because you claim all through your communication that the facts stated are in your favor.

That the Governor of Formosa being sick should decline to receive a visitor is natural enough.

enough. But that the
Governor, on the day after
the Consul had called, being
the day fixed by the Governor
phoned not answer the
Consul, when he enquired
if he would be received,
is not excusable, unless
the Governor were very
sick indeed — which
does not seem to have
been the case.
I have thus replied at
some length to the com-
munication of Your Highness
and Your Excellencies because
the tone of it is very objection-
able. You seem to have
departed in this case from
your

your usual fair and just rule of waiting for the facts, and to have prejudged the case. Throughout your communication there is apparent an effort to construe the most trivial statements into proof of wrong doing by the agents of Messrs. Russell & Co. I deplore this tendency to jump at conclusions, to decide before the evidence is heard, and to defend at all hazards acts which at least in view of their apparent injustice merit a full, fair, and impartial examination.

No 1299. Denby to Blaine

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 30 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 9th 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUL. 8 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Treatise on "Extraditions etc" received

No. 1299.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 9th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of two volumes of the book on Extradition and Inter-State Rendition of which Hon. John Bassett Moore is the author.

This book supplies a long felt want and will be exceedingly useful to the courts, lawyers, executive officers and legations.

F

I return thanks to the Department and to the learned author.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUL 1 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1300.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 11. 1891.

To Louis Cincinnati 2 Aug

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Give the marked part on pp. 9-11 to the World's Columbian Commission.
JUL 1 1891

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

China's participation in the World's Columbian Exposition.

Synopsis

China will appoint a commission — Governmental Exhibit doubtful.

No. 1300.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, May 11. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report herewith that I had a long interview this morning with the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen on the subject of the part China would take in the "World's Columbian Exposition." Not knowing the exact meaning to attach to the

the communications of the Japanese on the subject, translations whereof were enclosed in my despatches No. 1195 of Nov. 14. 1890, and No. 1277 of April 1. 1891. I first conferred with Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General, on the subject. I was informed by Sir Robert Hart that all the instructions that he had were to allow goods designed for the Exposition to be exported duty free, and that he had no instructions as to appointing a commission or securing a Governmental exhibit. Prof. Kitchcock being informed

of

of this condition sent up a strong communication to be transmitted to the Jamin, which was done. My interview shortly followed the sending of this document and lasted about an hour and a half. I very briefly refer to the points made by me.

I represented that the exposition would be the greatest affair of the kind that has ever been seen and that it was a grand opportunity for China to exhibit her silks, satins, porcelains, bronzes and other useful and beautiful products

and

and manufactures; that every thing sent would meet with a ready sale; that trade would be much benefitted; that beneficial political results might be anticipated that a commission sent to Chicago would be able to study all the manufactures of the world in the grounds of the Exposition; that Scholars and Students should be sent; that they would all be kindly received and honorably treated that the Exposition was not national, but International, and all the Nations

of

of the world were interested in it; that England had given $2,000,000 for Exposition purposes and it was stated that the Prince of Wales would go as Chief of the Commission, and China ought to send Li Hung Chang or some one of equal rank; that the American people and government would probably spend $5,000,000; that Japan would spend $500,000, and all the Countries of the East would be represented; that for China simply to take the export tax off of goods designed for the Exposition

was

was nothing; that it was impossible that the merchants of China coned get along without a head, some body of men to assist and direct them; that if China failed to send a Commission, her failure woned be ascribed to hostility to the United States; that nobody woned believe that it was a sense of economy by which she was governed; what did a great rich country like China care for a few hundred thousand taels; that the United States was China's best customers, buying from her

three

three times as much as she sold to her; that the tendency of our legislation was favorable to the appreciation of her silver currency; that at this time all means should be used to improve her tea and silk trade; that the merchants of China were keen and anxious to send exhibits but without governmental assistance they could do nothing. At divers times remarks were made by the Ministers tending to show that the real reason of the diminution to take a large part in the Exposition

was

was vexation over the Exclusion Act. It was asked how the merchants would get into the country- Chang Ing Huan stating that he had difficulty in getting in. I answered that there would be no trouble about that. The Legation and the Consul would see to it that proper certificates would be issued. It was asked whether the merchants would be photographed. I said certainly not in any derogatory manner that nothing that was offensive would be done, and every

Care

care would be taken to treat Chinese Exhibitors and visitors with politeness and courtesy. I said that probably fifty thousand Chinese would visit Chicago and for their convenience there should be Commissioners appointed by China. After considerable discussion I inquired whether I should inform my Government that China refused to take any official part in the Exposition on account of hostility to the United States. This intimation was emphatically denied. The Yamen finally assured me that Commissioners

woned be sent to have general charge of the Chinese Exhibit, that these Commissioners might not be sent from China but might be selected from the members of the Legation at Washington, in which case they woned rank Commissioners of Customs, or Chinese residing in the United States might be selected. The question of appropriating a sum of money woned be taken into consideration, but there was no item of this kind on the Imperial budget, and there were difficulties in the way

of

of doing any thing.

Of course, the expenses of any Commission would be paid by the Government. Proclamations would be issued by the local authorities in the interests of the Exposition and private persons would be encouraged to send exhibits. The Jamin will more fully report to me in about two weeks.

I suggested that the Jamin should grant an interview to Prof. Hitchcock, who could, better than I, explain the subject. After some conference among themselves, the Ministers said that they

they preferred to confer with me and a visit from Mr Hitchcock was unnecessary.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JUL 1 1891
aag

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1301.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 12th 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUL 1 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Likin troubles in Formosa

Synopsis

Encloses translation of the last despatch of the Yamên.

One enclosure.

No 1301.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 12th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

enclose a translation of the

reply of the Tsungli Yamên to

my communication, of which a

translation was sent to you

in my despatch No 1298, of May

7th last.

It will be seen that the

tone of this paper is much

more moderate than the first

Communication

communication was.

Within a few days, Shao Yu-lien has been appointed Governor of Formosa, in the place of Liu Ming-chuan. He is said to be a good and competent man, but his appointment will delay the settlement of the pending troubles.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby

No 13 May 9th 1891.

Enclosure in No. 130.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No. 13 May 9th 1891.

Your Excellency:

The Prince and Ministers had the honor, on the 7th inst., to receive a communication from Your Excellency in the matter of the reply received from the Yamên, anent the injuries that had been perpetrated by the local authorities of Taiwan against Messrs. Russell & Co.

In this communication Your Excellency states that the Prince and Ministers begin by making the statement that no report has been received from the Governor of Formosa, nevertheless they proceed to make some criticisms upon the statement of facts presented by Your Excellency, and that they draw some strange deductions therefrom; that the case merited a full, fair and

impartial

impartial investigation &c.

With reference to this case the likin that should be levied on the oil does not amount to a great deal and the matter is a small one, but it was feared that the goods belonged to the comprador, and that he had represented them to belong to the foreign Long, and the institution of such a system would surely prove detrimental to the likin revenue. Therefore the Yamên could not but first make some criticisms.

The Prince and Ministers have already addressed the Governor of Formosa to clearly investigate and find out whether this be the case or not and on receipt of a report the matter will then be considered.

As to the Governor not receiving the Consul, which

Your

Your Excellency regards as a breach of etiquette, the Prince and Ministers would observe that that officer has memorialized the Throne to be allowed to retire into private life, which fact is positive evidence of his sickness beyond doubt.

As in duty bound the Prince and Ministers send this reply for Your Excellency's information.

A necessary communication addressed to His Excellency

Col. Charles Denby

etc., etc., etc.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 1 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1302

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 16. 1891.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ask. by Number and File. abt
JUL 1 1891

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Railways in North China

Synopsis

Railway to be pushed to Shanhaiquan.

No. 1302

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 16. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that it seems to be settled that the Railway system in the North of China is to be pushed vigorously ahead. The Board of Admiralty has petitioned the Throne for permission to extend the Kaiping Line to

Shan

Shankaiquan, and it has been granted. This place is situate in the province of Chihli at the point where the Great Wall terminates. The Railroad will be continued from that point to Kirin. The sum of Taels 2,000,000 per annum will be furnished by the Board to construct the road from Shankaiquan to Kirin. Expresses were circulated at Tientsin the 2d inst. calling for tenders for twenty five hundred tons of rails and two hundred and seventy tons of fastenings.

Tenders

Tenders must be sent in by June 11 next, and the rails must be delivered in one hundred days' after date of Contract.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC
JUL 9 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 30 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1303.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 18th 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The claim of Russell & Co.

against their comprador

Synopsis

Last communication from the Yamên enclosed wherein an offer to pay $15.000 is made, and a mutual accounting between the parties is suggested

One enclosure.

No 1303.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 18th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

enclose, herewith, a translation

1/
303 of a communication received

from the Foreign Office, in

reply to one sent to it by me

the 10th of last March — see my

despatch No 1265 of March 14th —

relating to the claim of Messrs

Russell & Co against their

defaulting compradore, Chen Shou-li.

This

This case has been long pending, and every possible effort has been made by this legation to secure a settlement.

The serious trouble in my way has been, as explained in my despatch № 1213 of Nov. 15th 1890, that the judgement rendered was not for the sum of $36.462 63, but for the sum of $24.599.29.

The Governor of Tomoa now reports that the compradore has been in jail many years, that he cannot be confined all his life for debt, that the literati will raise $15.000 in full payment, and that this sum, with what Russell & Co.

Lane

have already received, will pay the indebtedness of $26.000, which the compradore admits.

The Yamen charges that there has never been a mutual accounting between Russell & Co and the compradore, and if this is not had the man must be set at liberty.

In view of the facts reported to you in the despatch last cited, there seems to be some foundation for this statement. But Russell & Co. were led to believe that they had recovered a regular judgement for the larger sum mentioned and have been entirely opposed

to

to opening up the matter.

I have sent to their agent at Amoy, Mr. Francis Cass, a copy of this enclosure. It is greatly to be hoped that some compromise can be arrived at or the matter will drag on for years to come. Russell & Co. charge that the local authorities have collected and pocketed the entire sum demanded and more besides, but no proof of this allegation has been furnished to this legation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby
No 14, May 11th 1891.

Enclosure in No 1303.

Translation.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No 14. May 14th 1891.

Your Excellency:

On the 10th of March 1891, we received your despatch, requesting us to direct that measures be taken to bring to a speedy conclusion Messrs. Russell & Co's suit for the recovery of a sum of money from Chên Ze-chi.

This Yamên wrote, at the time to the Governor to order satisfactory measures to be taken and replied, as you will remember, to Your Excellency's despatch. We are now in receipt of an official letter from the Governor as follows——

"The property of Chên Shou-li has been completely exhausted in this suit. The local authorities seized the piece of land bought by Chên Hai-chin and

and the other sureties in common, under the name of the Ta-san-tang. This produces annually from two to three thousand piculs of grain. In the 15th year of Kuang-hsü (1889), the Prefect of Tai-nan petitioned that the yearly rental in kind, collected therefrom, should be converted into cash and applied to the payment of the debt. This proposal was communicated in a despatch to Consul Crowell, from whom a reply was some time subsequently received stating that the case had already been submitted to his minister at Peking for action thereon, and refusing to have anything to do with it. This was reported, as the

record

record
shows; by the Governor at
the time.

Chên Shou-li and the
sureties having already
been in confinement many
years, some of the literati
came forward in the 10th
moon of last year (Dec. 1890)
as securities, wishing to
subscribe the sum of
$15.000 to be paid to
Russell & Co. on account
of the debt, in five yearly
installments. Inquiry as
to whether this would
be satisfactory was made
by telegram of the Acting
American Consul Cass,
who replied that the firm
would not consent thereto.

It seems that the
items of Messrs. Russell & Co's
claim for debt do not
agree with Chên Shou-li's
accounts. He acknowledges

an

an indebtedness of something over $26.100. There are to be deducted four thousand nine hundred and thirty odd dollars, already paid, and bond tendered in payment of $5.000 plus, amounting in all to more than $10.000. There remain Chen Shou-li's merchandize and household goods to be confiscated and sold at auction. If in addition thereto the sum of $15.000 is paid Russell & Co. will suffer no serious loss.

Chen Shou-li has been long in prison. His property has been completely exhausted Russell & Co. have, from beginning to end, been unwilling to have an adjustment of accounts face to face with

him

Lim. If now they are willing to close the case for $15.000, but are unwilling to admit a long period for the payment in installments, the Governor may, perhaps, bring pressure to bear on the sureties to find a way to pay in ready money. This proposition has been submitted to Acting Consul Cass. As no reply has as yet been received from Lim the local officials have no means of closing the case.

The debt if unsubstantiated cannot be understood, but Russell & Co. are now unwilling to go over their accounts in the presence of the debtor. They also consider the amount offered in payment as excessively small

small but, in fact, there
is no proof on which to
rely to collect the sum
they demand. Should the
$15.000 be accepted, but
the long limit for its payment
in installments be objected
to, though the sureties
have not consented thereto
the local officials may
devise measures to meet
the case. If Russell & Co.
are, however, unwilling
to close it, it will then
be necessary for them at
once to go over their accounts
in the presence of Chên Shou-li.
Debts are a small matter
for which the law does
not authorize perpetual
imprisonment, and, if the
accounts are not thus
substantiated, it will be
proper for Chên Shou-li
and the sureties, on furnishing
bond

bond, to be temporarily set at liberty.

Finally it is requested that H.E. Mr. Denby be written to for his information, that he may state in reply whether Russell & Co. should close the case on these terms or not and may direct what action shall be taken".

The Yamen observes that this case has been involved in confusion for many years. It has been dealt with with justice by the Governor, who has truly exercised unrelaxing diligence. There is no law authorizing perpetual imprisonment for debt. If the case can be closed then let it be closed and further delay avoided. We hope that Your Excellency will have the firm in question directed to

obediently

obediently bring the matter to an end in order to clear away accumulated litigation.

As in duty bound we forward, for Your Excellency's information, copies of the correspondence between the Governor and the Consul.

A necessary communication addressed to His Excellency

Charles Denby,

U. S. Minister.

Translated by

Ch. Denby Jr.

2nd Secretary.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 15 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 30 1891
RECEIVED

To Navy Dept
17 July

No. 1304.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 20. 1891.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Sent No. 1309, to Navy
for its information.
JUL 15 1891

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Riots against foreigners at Wuhu.

Synopsis.

Encloses communication of foreign Representatives to Yamen. Describes the riot. Suggests increase of Naval force.

Mr Adee

Copy of the Memo might be sent to the Navy Dept. Though I do not think that they can use many of the points. They might like the information

WHW

July 14/91

No. 1304.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 20. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a communication addressed this day by the Diplomatic body to the Foreign Office touching riots in China, wherein foreigners and their property are injured. A committee of the foreign

Ministers

Ministers will present this communication in person. This action was chiefly caused by the riots which occurred at Wuhu two or three days ago. I have only received telegraphic accounts thereof, but it appears that the buildings of the Roman Catholics were burnt, the English Consulate was threatened and some of the foreign Cath buildings were injured. Wuhu is situated on the Yangtze, in the province of An-hwei,

half

half way between Chinkiang and Kiukiang. It is a thriving town of 78,000 inhabitants. It is in the Consular district of the Consul at Chinkiang. The American Methodist Episcopal Church has a mission about a mile and a half below Wuhu, situate on the bank of the river. The Missionaries there are Revd. J. Walley, and wife, and Dr. G. A. and Mrs. Stuart. No harm has yet befallen this Mission, but a telegram sent by the British Consul

the

the 16th inst., stated that the rioters openly proclaimed that the Mission buildings would be destroyed the 31st instant. I immediately informed the Foreign Office of these threats, and stated that as the Prince and Ministers were now forewarned, there would surely be no difficulty in protecting that Mission, and I urgently demanded protection. Grave fears are entertained in China that a preconcerted plot has been formed for a general uprising

against

against foreigners at
several of the ports.
There were indications
of this scheme some weeks
ago at Tientsin when
inflamatory placards
were posted calling on
the populace to rise and
destroy the foreigners, and
then to march on Peking
and dethrone the present
dynasty. The 31st of this
month was fixed for
the day of the uprisal.
Some of the men concerned
in the posting of these
placards were arrested
and one was executed.
Consul Jones entertains

sevens

serious fears for the peace of Chinkiang. Taking the condition of China into account, it will be seen that the enclosed paper is well warranted. It sets forth the frequent recurrence of outrages on foreigners, and asserts that, though indemnities have been paid, no rioters have ever been punished, and it winds up with the distinct assertion that the foreign powers will themselves take measures for the protection of foreigners if the

Chinese

Chinese Government fails to do its duty. The original "gun boat" policy, which has been practically abandoned, may be renewed with great vigor. As there is no similarity between the form of Government of China and our own dual form of government, and as here all officials are appointed by the Crown, and are practically slaves of the Crown, the Imperial Government is properly held responsible for the acts and defaults of its agents. I did

not

not, therefore, hesitate to join my Colleagues in presenting the enclosed papers. In this connexion, I beg leave, with diffidence, to suggest that the squadron on the Asiatic Station should be increased. I thoroughly understand that these questions are for the Navy Department and not for the State Department. Nevertheless the Minister in China is more or less charged with the protection of American Citizens in China, and he may be excused

for

for suggesting that the Squadron in the East is entirely insufficient for the duties it has to perform. The Asiatic Station covers about fourteen thousand miles. To protect American interests over this enormous space we have the "Alliance," the "Monocacy," and the "Palos." While I write telegraphic news comes that the situation at Nganking and other places is critical. But the Imperial Government is doing what it can to concentrate troops

at

at the threatened points. Every disposable gun boat of the foreign powers has been ordered to the scene of the recent outrages, and there is reason to hope that the worst is over. It does not appear that any foreigner has been injured, but the buildings of the Catholics at Wuhu were entirely destroyed.

The Yamên has answered my communication. It states that all possible effort will be made to protect the American Mission.

I.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Your Highness:

Most of the Representatives of the Treaty Powers accredited to His Majesty the Emperor of China have had occasion during the past few years to remonstrate more or less frequently with the Tsungli Yamên against the remissness of the Chinese Government in protecting the persons and property of their nationals residing in China under the stipulations of Treaties.

Incendiary placards, infamous publications, insults, attacks

upon

upon life and property
have formed the subject
of their remonstrances;
in some cases indemnities
have been paid, in others
proclamations issued, but
in not one single case
has one of the culprits
been punished even when
hundreds had been engaged
in the outrages in broad
daylight. When complaints
are lodged at the Tsung-
li Yamên Your Highness
and Your Excellencies either
give the independence of
the provincial authorities
as the reason for not
interfering more energetically

or

or refer to the feeling of the population as the reason why the authorities could do nothing to prevent outrages or punish the perpetrators thereof. The result of such inaction on the part of the Chinese authorities has been, as it could not be otherwise, an increase in the insolence and daring of lawless individuals and in consequence in the number of outrages which have again culminated a few days ago in an organized attack by a mob upon the foreigners living at

the

the Treaty Ports of Wuhsu, the fourth repetition of such an occurrence within a few years not to count the numerous attacks upon the persons and property of foreigners in the Interior.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies will be certainly aware that when in 1868 Mr. Burlingame was sent by the Chinese Government to the Governments of the Treaty Powers, one of the objects of his mission was to obtain from these Powers the assurance that in future they would abstain

From

from holding the Chinese provincial and local authorities directly responsible for outrages committed within their jurisdiction and from securing redress on the spot by the means at their disposal, but that they would present their complaints and reclamations to the Central Government who on their part would see justice done and wrongs redressed. The foreign Governments and their representatives have strictly adhered to the promise then made, but

the

the results of the policy have not been such as they had a right to expect, on the contrary instead of executing their part of the understanding the Chinese Government, by not exercising over the provincial and local officials that authority which they undoubtedly possess have succeeded in nullifying entirely the results expected by the foreign governments from their compliance with Mr. Burlingame's request. To day and, we regret to have to say, for a number

of

of years past, the only result of the attitude assumed by the Governments at the demand of China has been to encourage the Tsungli Yamen in abstaining from efficacious action thus rendering the provincial and local authorities virtually independent of the Central Government in all questions referring to foreign interests.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies will understand that this state of things cannot continue any longer without seriously endangering

He

the friendly relations between the Treaty Powers and China. The former have the right to expect that the Chinese Government will maintain, and when necessary, force the provincial and local authorities to protect the persons and property of foreigners in the Treaty Ports as well as inland and that when outrages against them are committed, the culprits will be apprehended and punished. The undersigned must particularly insist that this shall be done with the cases still

pending

pending in which no redress has been obtained so far and especially with the latest outrage at Wuhu. They would regret very much if the continued inaction of the Tsung li Yamên should oblige them to report to their Governments that neither protection nor redress were obtainable at the hands of the Central Government and that they would have therefore to look to their own means for protecting the persons and property of their nationals and obtaining

or

on the spot redress for injuries or insults inflicted on them.
The undersigned avail themselves &c &c &c

To ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ask. by Number and File.
JUL 1 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
JUL 1 1891
RECEIVED.

No 1305.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 21st 1891.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 1 1891

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

China's relation to opium.

Synopsis

Resolution of a religious society enclosed. Statistics of decrease of importation of Indian opium.

Two enclosures.

No 1305.

Legation of the United States.

Peking May 21st 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, copies of two resolutions adopted by the Seventh-day Baptists of America in General Conference assembled at Salem W. Va., Aug 25th 1890. These resolutions were forwarded to me by the representatives of this sect at Shanghai, with the request that I would present

2/305

present them to the supreme authorities of China. I declined to present either of them —, the first because it injuriously reflected on my own government, the second because it denounced the action of a government with which we have friendly relations.

As to the first resolution nothing need be said. I am induced to make some obervations on the relation of China to opium, in order that my well-meaning countrymen may not hereafter indulge in excessive "sympathy with the authorities of China in their desire to save their

nation

nation from the curse of opium
xxx".

The customs returns show
each year that the cultivation
of the poppy is increasing in
China. The drain of silver for
the purchase of Indian opium
presented a serious problem to
the Chinese statesmen. The first
effort made was the destruction
of all opium at Canton. This
resulted in what is called
the "Opium War" of 1841. Since
then China has preferred the
native drug to the foreign
importation. The effect of this
policy is distinctly seen in
the annual customs returns.

At Ningpo the import of

Indian

Indian opium in ten years has sunk from 8,000 piculs each year to 6,000 piculs. Since 1884, the importation into Shanghai and Ningpo together has fallen from 19,000 piculs to 14,000.

From Chinkiang west to Hankow the people use one third less of Indian opium than they did eleven years ago.

The people in Kiangsu, Anhui, Kiangsi and Hupeh now spend Rs. 5,300,000 for foreign opium, whereas eleven years ago they spent Rs. 7,200,000. At Chinkiang the import in 1884 was 11,000 piculs. It is now 4,000.

Including Nanking in one

category

category with Soochow and Kangchow — representing the seats of the silk and satin manufactures — we find that in 1873 this country used 36.000 piculs of opium and last year 26.000. In 1873, the people there spent 13.000.000 taels and in last year 10.000.000.

Classing together the three river ports above Chinkiang, we learn that, in Central China, 8.500 piculs were used seventeen years ago, and now 6.500 are used.

If this decrease continues, in fifteen years the Indian import will be one fourth or one third less than it is now.

In

In Peking and Tientsin the foreign opium is preferred, but in the North generally its use is diminishing.

The Chinese statesmen scarcely make an effort in any province now to check the culture of the poppy. They wish to drive out the Indian article and, when this is once done, the native drug will be heavily taxed. But, until that period is reached, Anti-opium Societies cannot expect governmental aid; but must rely on the propaganda of native and foreign societies, looking to individual reformation. In such efforts all lovers of humanity

will

will gladly assist.

The customs returns very distinctly show the opium drain of silver from South China. As an illustration take the small port of Pakhoi, on the southwest coast of the province of Canton. Assuming the price of opium to be $500 a picul, in 1889 Pakhoi spent $500.000 for foreign opium. Pakhoi paid for this opium by sending to Canton and Hongkong exports of that value. The imports and exports together amounted to $6.000.000. Counting the profits on this trade at ten per cent, nearly the whole went for opium. The same results attend the trade at

at Canton, Lappa, Kowloon and Swatow. Out of the $14.000.000 representing this trade the owners lost one seventh for the luxury of smoking.

I am indebted for these statistics to articles written by Dr Joseph Edkins, for the North-China Daily News. The learned writer strongly favors the establishment of anti-opium societies. He concludes that, to stop the drain of silver from China, manufacturing of native products and mining should be encouraged.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1 in No 130

Copy

To the Seventh-day Baptist Missionary Association at Shanghai:

Kindly present these resolutions of the Seventh-day Baptists of America to the supreme authorities of the Chinese Government.

Resolved, That we, the Seventh-day Baptists of America, in General Conference assembled, at Salem W. Va., Aug. 20-25, 1890, do respectfully and earnestly petition the United States Congress to repeal that unjust and dishonorable bill known as the "Chinese Exclusion Act of 1888;" and, at the earliest possible day, in a manner consistent with our honor and dignity as a Christian nation and with the principles of right and humanity, to commence negotiations with the Chinese government, for the purpose of

of securing, by new or revised treaties, the same fair and honorable treatment for the Chinese that we accord to the citizens of other countries; and further,

Resolved, That engrossed copies of these resolutions, signed by the President and Secretary of the General Conference, be sent to His Excellency, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States, to the Representative of the Chinese Government at Washington; and, through the Seventh-day Baptist Missionary Association at Shanghai, to the supreme authorities in China.

(Signed) H. D. Babcock, President.
" L. K. Platt, Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No 1305

Copy

To the Seventh-day Baptist Missionary Association at Shanghai:

Kindly present these resolutions of the Seventh-day Baptists of America to the supreme authorities of the Chinese government.

Resolved, That we the Seventh-day Baptists of America, in General Conference assembled, at Salem, W. Va., Aug. 20-25, 1890, desire to record our sorrow at the moral and physical havoc which has been wrought among the people of China, in consequence of the opium policy of the British government —— a policy wholly at variance with the principles of the Christian religion; and we hereby express our deep sympathy with the authorities of China in their desire to save their nation from the curse of the opium habit, and our hearty approval of all

right

right, moral and legal measures for the suppression of the iniquitous opium traffic: and further,

Resolved, That an engrossed copy of these resolutions signed by the President and Secretary of the Conference, be presented to the Chinese Government, through the Seventh-day Baptist Missionary Association at Shanghai.

(Signed) H. D. Babcock, President.

L. H. Platts, Secretary.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUL 1 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 1 1891
RECEIVED.

No. 1306

Legation of the United States,
Peking, May 21. 1891.

To Treas 2 Pmk

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Forwards treatise on "Chinese Currency."

for directors prints

No. 1306

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 21. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose you a short Treatise on "Chinese Currency" by J. Edkins, D.D.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure under separate cover.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 1 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 1 1891
RECEIVED

No. 1307.

Legation of the United State,
Peking, May 21. 1891.

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Acknowledging despatches.

No. 1307

Legation of the United States,
Peking, May 21. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches No. 603 of March 30. 1891,
" 604 " 31. "
" 605 " " "
" 606 April 7. "

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

No. 1308

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. JUL 1 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. JUL 1 1891 RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, May 21. 1891.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY. Ack. appreciating Mr. Denby's determination to stay at his post until relieved. JUL 1 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acknowledges receipt of letter of Recall. Will stay in China until successor arrives on account of the dangers of riots against foreigners.

No. 1308.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, May 21. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 606 of the 7th ult., enclosing my "Letter of Recall." I return thanks for the kind words in which your dispatch is couched. If I have succeeded in discharging my duties to the satisfaction

of

of the Department I have been enabled to do so chiefly by the uniformly able treatment by the Department of all questions that have arisen, and by its generous, kind, and cordial support of this Legation. For all this kindness I return profound thanks. Your despatch authorizes me to remain in China until Mr. Blair shall arrive, and to present my Letter of Recall at that time. I regard it as my duty to stay. Recent events of which you have

have been informed by telegram and despatch indicate serious danger to foreigners at various points on the Yangtze and at Tientsin. Even in Shanghai threatening placards are said to have been posted. The foreign community here are greatly excited, especially as the attempted murder of the Czarewitch coincided in time with these outbreaks. Under these circumstances I must remain here to do what I can for the protection of Americans,

until

until my successor shall arrive.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
★ MAY 22 1891 ★
RECEIVED.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. In cipher

File

From U. S. Legation

Peking May 22 1891.

Received 8 a M.

Blaine,

Washington.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 22 1891.

Copy to Mary 25 May

Serious riots Wuhu. Catholic buildings destroyed. American mission threatened. Riots at other places on the Yangtze. Great fear is entertained uprising against foreigners Chinkiang and elsewhere. Will Blair arrive July 7]

Denby.

(Chungkiang 200 ?)

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 25 1891

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy, with No. 1304, to Navy Dept. for its information
JUL 15 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 30 1891
RECEIVED.

To Navy Dept

No. 1309

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 22. 1891.

Mr. Denby

to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Re Wuhu Riots.

Synopsis

Some account thereof and observations thereon.

No. 1309

Legation of the United States,
Peking, May 22. 1891.

To the Honorable
James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I wired the Admiral, the 20th inst., that it was advisable to send a vessel to Chinkiang for the protection of Americans residing there. I presume that he will do so. I take it for granted that

Consul

Consul Jones will particularly report on the late outrages at Wuhu, and other riots that have occurred at points on the Yangtze.

The latest reports received here are to the effect that the mob burned down all the Catholic Mission premises, the Orphanage, the Cathedral and some houses belonging to the Mission in which a number of the Customs people resided. The houses were all looted before being set on fire. It is stated, also, that

the

the British Consulate was
sacked, but there is some
doubt about the truth
of this statement. The
foreign residents all
took refuge on the hulk
lying in the river off
Wuhu. Dr. G. A. Stuart
of the Methodist Mission
and Revd. W. Q. Knapp
of the International
Missionary Alliance, both
Americans, with their
families have proceeded
to Shanghai, having
left their Missions in
charge of English
Missionaries. They suppose
that the trouble at Wuhu

is

is now over. It is difficult to find any real cause for such outbreaks as this. There have within a few years been riots at nearly every important point on the Yangtze. Chunking, Changking, Yangchow, Kiukiang slightly, and Wuhu have all suffered.

It may be said that the people have no grievances against the Missionaries. But the same old pretense that the orphan children in care of the Sisters of the Catholic denomination are abused is now and again availed of to destroy harmless

harmless and beneficial asylums. This was the cause of the trouble at Tientsin in 1870, and was the ostensible cause of the Wuhu riot.
It is not doubted that the officials in charge of the provinces are much opposed to outbreaks. They tend to bring officials into disrepute with the Imperial Government.
It is supposed that the Secret societies are at the bottom of these riots. The valley of the Yangtze is notorious for the existence of these societies,

and

and they are uniformly hostile to foreigners. They are a terror no less to the officials. While their original aims are political, and look to the overthrow of this dynasty and the putting of a Chinese Emperor on the Throne, they naturally drift into robbery and murder. The late burning of the steamer Shanghai, by which occurrence hundreds of lives were lost, is ascribed to agents of these societies. Nuku is said to be the center of these societies.

The

The startling fact apparent in all these cases of outrage is that no rioter has ever been punished. The foreign Representatives have determined that the recent riot shall be made the basis of demands on China, not only for indemnity but also for the severe punishment of the ringleaders. It will be the cause also of strenuous demands that the naval forces of the Treaty Powers shall at all times be conveniently located so as to reach threatened points.

It

It is said that Great Britain has twenty two ships on this station, yet, when the outbreak occurred there was not one at Shanghai, or on the Yangtze. All the other nationalities were in the same unfortunate condition — except that the Germans had a gun-boat at Hankow. Foreigners at the open ports live — as has been often said — on a volcano. Riots occur on trivial causes, and without premonition. That the Imperial Government is inherently weak,

and

and exists only by sufferance,
is one of the teachings
of these outbreaks that
is impressed on the
observer irresistibly.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No 1310.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUL 2 1891

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 1 1891
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking May 22nd 1891.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Confirming telegram of May 21st

No 1310.

Legation of the United States.

Peking May 22nd 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram of the 21st inst, as follows:

"Blaine, Washington,

"Serious riots Wuhu

"Catholic buildings destroyed

"American Mission threatened

"riots at other places on

"the Yangtze great fear is

"entertained uprising

against

"against foreigners Chinkiang
"and elsewhere. Will
"Blair arrive July.

Denby."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Diplomatic Bureau
file
Ack
Mr Denby to Foster

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 2 1891
RECEIVED

No. 1311 July 7/91

Legation of the United States,
Peking, May 25. 1891.

Ack 8 Aug

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 7 1891

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Mukden matters

Synopsis

Forwards newspaper cuttings.

No. 1311

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 25. 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose two cuttings from the "North China News," of the 18th inst., giving accounts of the late riots at Nuhsu. At the present writing quiet seems to prevail there.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures

"The Riot at Wuhu"

(From a French Missionary)

"The Riot at Wuhu"

(From a Protestant Missionary)

THE RIOT AT WUHU.

(FROM A FRENCH MISSIONARY.)

In order to prevent misconception from incomplete and erroneous reports, I beg to give you the following particulars with regard to the recent outrage in Wuhu, which have been furnished by Fathers Havret and Debaix, just arrived by the Tehheng.

For the last three years the Catholic missionaries had been living peacefully in that city which was their centre for the management in the Province of Anhui. Neither themselves nor their Christians had ever had any difficulty with the people, and nothing whatever had happened that could make us foresee the last sudden and unprovoked outrage.

the mob; the English Consul ought to appeal again to the Taotai.

Mr. Ford, on being applied to, answered that the Taotai knew everything. But no one came and such is the part taken by the first Chinese magistrate in defence of the Catholic Mission.

At 5 p.m. there began to fall stones and brickbats within the walls. The Chehsien sent to the missionaries, beseeching them to take refuge in the English Consulate only separated from them by a narrow street. But they refused, unwilling as they were uselessly to compromise a family as innocent as themselves.

At last at 5.30 p.m. one of the side doors of the façade gave way. The three European missionaries who were still in the establishment thought it was time to slip out by a back door. On their way they were insulted in the coarsest language, the qualification of *Kouitze* (鬼子, children thieves), being predominant.

On board the hulk of the Tsi-Ku Co. they were most graciously received by Mr. Weatherstone, but unwilling further to compromise a company which had already had so much to suffer from Chinese belgueda, they went into a small boat which took them to Chinkiang.

Before leaving the hulk, the missionaries witnessed the burning of all the buildings of their establishment. Two telegrams for Shanghai entrusted on that same evening to Mr. Weatherstone together with another handed to the agent on the following morning, were refused, on the plea that the Taotai had forbidden sending any despatch from the Catholic missionaries.

On their arrival at Chinkiang on Thursday, the missionaries heard that the fire of the Tuesday had been followed by a pillage as complete as shameful without any interference of the Chinese authorities.

The doctor of the Protestant Mission who came down with Fathers Havret and Debaix, assured them that the looting of two missionaries had been broken open.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions or assertions of Correspondents; nor can he undertake to return unused MS. Correspondents are requested to write on only one side of the paper.

THE RIOT AT WUHU.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—News will doubtless have reached you of the disturbances we have had here for the last few days.

It appears that two Chinese Sisters connected with the French Mission have

THE RIOT AT WUHU.

(FROM A FRENCH MISSIONARY.)

In order to prevent misconception from incomplete and erroneous reports, I beg to give you the following particulars with regard to the recent outrage in Wuhu, which have been furnished by Fathers Havret and Debrix, just arrived by the *Tchhsing*.

For the last three years the Catholic missionaries had been living peacefully in that city which was their centre for the management in the Province of Anhúi. Neither themselves nor their Christians had ever had any difficulty with the people, and nothing whatever had happened that could make us foresee the last sudden and unprovoked outrage.

On the evening of Sunday, 10th May, two Christian ladies employed by the Mission, had gone out of their establishment and were crossing one of the streets of the quarter south of the canal, not far from the Taotai's *yamén*, when they were suddenly set upon, brutally arrested and dragged to the office of the local police officer (保甲局). They were accused of having bewitched two children by the use of a drug (迷藥); and in proof of the charge, two children, five and seven years old, were brought forward, who it was said had been their victims.

The police officer was glad of an occasion of showing his zeal in favour of the accusers and in the night he had the two ladies transferred to the tribunal of the Chehsien.

The English Consul, Mr. Ford, applied to by the missionaries, requested the Taotai to interfere, but he contented himself with saying that *it was a serious affair which he must let take its course.*

The mob, in spite of the great distance, had followed the prisoners to the Chehsien's office and was waiting for that magistrate's verdict.

The Chehsien about midnight had both parties brought to his tribunal. After a summary examination in which the two ladies gave the most formal denial to the charge of having drugged the children, the Chehsien gave a provisory verdict, viz. that "the prisoners would be set at liberty as soon as the use of speech was restored to the children," for it would seem that the magical power of those poor girls had the effect of making the two witnesses dumb.

In the course of Monday, the children had no patience to obey any longer the orders they had received; they spoke and thus relieved the Chehsien from his engagement. About 2 p.m. he came himself to congratulate the Catholic missionaries and announce the release of the ladies, who in fact returned home about 4 p.m.

It was perfectly clear that it had been a scheme prepared beforehand. As early as the evening of Sunday, the Customs authorities were informed that sinister rumours were spread in the Taotai's quart[illegible]

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions or assertions of Correspondents; nor can he undertake to return unused MS. Correspondents are requested to write on only one side of the paper.

THE RIOT AT WUHU.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—News will doubtless have reached you of the disturbance we have had here for the last few days.

It appears that two Chinese Sisters connected with the Jesuit Mission here were out on Sunday afternoon last, and as they proceeded along the street were greeted with the usual cry of the beggars and children. They are said to have spoken kindly to two of the children and patted them on the head, at which the people set upon them saying they were using medicine to stupify and take away the speech and hearing of the children that they might steal them and send them to Shanghai. A great crowd gathered and took both the women and children to the local official who, becoming frightened sent them to the *Hsien*.

The crowd continued to increase and become more noisy, and call for the destruction of the Jesuit Mission property.

The *Hsien*, however, managed to quiet them down though they did not disperse.

On Tuesday they got more vociferous and in the afternoon went in a body to the Jesuit Mission premises, but the priests had already fled, so that after but slight resistance on the part of the Chinese attendants, the gates were smashed in and the walls pulled down, the crowd rushing in hooting and yelling.

Spades were called for and some of the graves of those buried in the compound were opened and the contents held up as proof positive of foul play. The bodies were too much decomposed to be recognised yet they were declared to be the remains of Chinamen cut up by the foreigners. At the sight of this the crowd broke into cries to destroy the premises, so oil was brought and the[illegible] over everything and lighted; the whole place soon became enveloped in flame and all that now remains of the fine buildings are bare and blackened walls and broken bricks.

About dusk the crowd broke into the English Consulate causing the Consul and his wife to beat a hasty retreat in disguise.

About this time the Taotai arrived with soldiers and surrounded the Consulate, thus preventing its destruction, though a great deal of damage was done to the walls and grounds.

The attention of the mob was now turned to several large blocks of buildings belonging

OVER.

magistrate's verdict.

The Chehsien about midnight had both parties brought to his tribunal. After a summary examination in which the two ladies gave the most formal denial to the charge of having drugged the children, the Chehsien gave a provisory verdict, viz. that "the prisoners would be but at liberty as soon as the use of speech was restored to the children," for it would seem that the magical power of these poor girls had the effect of making the two witnesses dumb.

In the course of Monday, the children had no patience to obey any longer the orders they had received; they spoke and thus relieved the Chehsien from his engagement. About 2 p.m. he came himself to congratulate the Catholic missionaries and announce the release of the ladies, who in fact returned home about 4 p.m.

It was perfectly clear that it had been a scheme prepared beforehand. As early as the evening of Sunday, the Customs authorities were informed that sinister rumours were spread in the Taotai's quarter and that there was a plot to make a rush against the European quarter. They therefore sent word to the missionaries of the danger, and invited them, on the first sign to repair to the offices of the Customs, from thence to be taken on board a steamer which was then loading rice in the river.

In spite, however, of these well-founded rumours, the whole of Monday and the morning of the Tuesday passed without any outbreak. Nothing foreboded the storm at hand and the calumnies circulated in the tea-houses and other public establishments were no signs of the riot that was preparing underhand.

On Tuesday then, at 1 p.m. an unknown woman presented herself at the Mission, followed by some twenty ill-looking fellows. Screaming out violently, she claimed her child *whom the Missionaries had stolen, as they had done in the case of two others whose corpses were within the walls of the Catholic establishment.*

This was the signal for a new attack. This the missionaries understood at once and they went to beg Mr. Ford to appeal to the conscience of Chang Taotai; after which they came home to set in order some urgent affairs.

In the mean time the mob was increasing in numbers and they began to surround the walls. About 3 p.m. on the request of the missionaries, a military officer had come to the rescue, and had taken hold of one of the assailants who was just trying to break open a door with a stone. At the same time the Chehsien, also applied to by the missionaries, made his way with great difficulty through the mob and stood before the main entrance where he harangued the people who were already uttering out hostile cries. These magistrates both declared they would be trampled to death rather than abandon their post. In fact they remained to the last.

The wild clamour however was but increasing, approaching nearer and nearer. About 4 p.m. the Chehsien informed the missionaries that he felt unable to restrain the people any longer. Then began the work of destruction. Stones were thrown in showers, and the doors were battered in with axes, amidst hooting and yelling.

Spades were called for and some of the graves of those buried in the compound were opened and the contents held up as proof positive of foul play. The bodies were too much decomposed to be recognised yet they were declared to be the remains of Chinamen cut up by the foreigners. At the sight of these the crowd broke into cries to destroy [illegible], so oil was brought and they [illegible] everything and lighted; the whole [illegible] soon became enveloped in flames and all that now remains of the fine buildings are bare and blackened walls and broken bricks.

About dusk the crowd broke into the English Consulate causing the Consul and his wife to beat a hasty retreat in disguise.

About this time the Taotai arrived with soldiers and surrounded the Consulate, thus preventing its destruction, though a great deal of damage was done to the walls and grounds.

The attention of the mob was now turned to several large blocks of building belonging to the Jesuits, including the Customs' premises and the residences of nearly the whole of the staff; much of which was new property and had only been occupied a few days. Here, however, they met with resistance.

Our gallant Commissioner and his brave staff were determined to defend their premises to the last. Each was armed with a musket and bayonet, the streets were barricaded and patrols set.

Such was the determination of the mob to destroy the Customs, that the defenders had to rally time after time and led by the Commissioner, charge the mob, many of whom can now tell to a trifle the weight of a musket.

Wednesday morning all the foreign residents were called to the *Tehhsing* by the Consul who had detained the steamer.

On Wednesday evening three Chinese men-of-war which were passing up river (one of which had the Futai of Anhui on board) came to anchor in front of the Concession and fired a broadside or two, this with the aid of a good shower of rain quickly scattered the people.

We cannot speak too highly of the bearing of the Commissioner and all the members of both the [illegible] and outdoor staff, as well as of some of the other foreign residents who kept [illegible] the nearly 48 hours.

It is without doubt entirely owing to this prompt and vigorous action that the rest of the foreign residences were not destroyed and probably some lives lost. The generous kindness of Mr. T. Weatherstone, Agent of Butterfield and Swire, and Captain Cain and officers of the s.s. Tehhsing [illegible] the thanks of the whole community, most of whom are in some way indebted to them for services rendered.

Captain Cain and his officers did all they could to make the ladies and children comfortable by giving up their cabins and supplying all their needs.

I have just come away from the scene of the riot and can only say that the

OVER.

Diplomatic
Desp. & file

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 2 1891
RECEIVED
DIPLOMATIC
JUL 7 1891

No. 1317
Legation of the United States
Peking, May 27, 1891.

July 7/91

Mr. Denby
to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Riots at Nanking.

Synopsis
American Methodist
Girl school fired and
looted.

No. 1312

Legation of the United States,

Peking, May 27. 1891

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from the Consul General two telegrams of the 25th and 26th insts. respectively as follows:

"Jones telegraphs pillage at Nanking has commenced."

"Mob checked at Nanking but American Methodist girls'

"girls' school fired and looted and others attacked. "Soldiers despersed mob." Nanking is situated on the Yangtze two hundred and four miles from Shanghai and forty seven from Chinkiang. It is possible that the new Vice Roy has not taken over the Government of the Province. From his former reputation I should judge that no mob would occur while he was present in Nanking. This occurrence surprises me very much. I have personally visited Nanking and was much gratified

to

to learn that the best of feeling prevailed towards the American Missionaries. Within the last few weeks I have had accounts of the extraordinary ovation which Dr. Rube, the hospital physician, received when he was leaving the city. The local authorities attended him to his boat, he was followed by an immense procession of grateful people, and many presents were made to him. But these despatches indicate that hostility to orphan

Asylums,

Asylums and girls' schools
is deeply imbedded in the
minds of the Chinese, and
that it may break out
at any moment into acts
of outrage. I have done
what I coned here to
meet this extraordinary
emergency. I have demanded
protection of the Yamên,
and wired the Admiral
to send a ship immediately
to the Yangtze. Besides
addressing the Yamen in
writing as shown by my
despatch No. 1304 of
May 20th, a committee of
the Foreign Representatives
had a conference lasting

four

four hours with the Yamên yesterday. The proceedings were somewhat stormy, but after a full discussion the Yamên agreed that the ringleaders of the various riots should be punished; that the Emperor should issue a proclamation warning the people against rioting and maltreating foreigners; and that the local authorities should be held personally responsible for all riots in their respective jurisdictions. I very much fear that the Mob spirit will

will reach Chinkiang, and sincerely hope that the Monocacy may arrive in time to overawe the populace. Peking may possibly be safe owing to the actual presence of the Emperor here, but the Missions located here are scattered and far apart, and native violence against them could wreak its purposes before any aid could be afforded. No city is safe, not even Shanghai. The Vice Consul at Suiteen writes me that no hostile movement or combination can be

discovered

discovered among the people in that city. Still a dread pervades all minds here that there may be serious riots at Suntsin. I very much fear, also, for Hankow where there is an immense Orphan Asylum under Catholic Control. The only hope is in the firmness of Chang Chi Tung. the present Vice Roy. As I write, a telegram to the Chargé of France reaches me, to the effect that the Catholic Mission at Nanking was also attacked. No lives were lost.

All

all the Missionaries
have left Nanking. Grave
fears are entertained
even at Shanghai.
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2 1891
RECEIVED
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 2 1891

No 1313.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, May 27th, 1891.

— Wm. Woodville Rockhill —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —
Telegram account from March
6th, 1891, to May 21st, 1891.

— — — — —

No 1313 One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 27th, 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to endose
my account for official telegrams,
1313 from March 6th 1891, to May 21st, 1891,
amounting to $115.89, against which
I have this day drawn my draft on
you in the usual manner.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

Charles Denby

Enclosure 1. account as above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 2 1891
RECEIVED

No Cuddeback
Act and
commend Mr
Denby's action

No 1314 July 4/91

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 28th 1891.

(acknowledged)

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Protection of foreigners

Synopsis

Details of interview with Yamên on this subject.

One enclosure.

No. 1314.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 28th 1891.

To the Honorable

James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a report of an interview had by a committee of the foreign representatives with the members of the Foreign Office, the 25th inst.

It was agreed that the ringleaders of the riot at Wuhu should be punished; that two native sisters of charity, who are

are charged with witchcraft, should be discharged from custody; the the officials who were negligent should be punished and that an imperial edict should be issued denouncing attacks on missionaries and converts and rendering local officials responsible for the protection of foreigners.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure.

Report of interview with the Foreign Office May 25th 1891.

Enclosure 1 in No 1314

At a conference at the Tungli Yamên on May 25th 1891, at which were present, on the Chinese side: H.H. Prince Ching and Their Excellencies,

Hsü Têng-chên,

Sun Yü-wên,

Hsü Yung-yi,

Chang Yin-huan, and

on the foreign side the representatives of France, Germany, and Great Britain, acting for and on behalf of the representatives of treaty powers present at Peking.

The ministers of the Tungli Yamên, after a long discussion during which, on their part, the calumnies brought forward against missionaries in general and foundling asylums in particular, were repeatedly mentioned as a fit subject of judicial inquiry, a view strongly objected to by the foreign representatives, finally made the following promises

promises:

1) <u>With regard to the Urhu affair</u>: that the ringleaders would be punished, as also the officials who had shown want of forethought and energy, and that the judicial proceedings against two native sisters of charity, who had been accused of witchcraft, would be stopped.

2) <u>With regard to the general question of the protection of foreign lives and property and the settlement of pending affairs</u>: that the members of the Yamên would consult together and place before the Emperor a memorial praying for the issue of an edict, or edicts, ordering the issue of proclamations by the High provincial authorities in the Yangtze provinces, by imperial order, denouncing the accusations brought against missionaries and converts, by

placard

placards and otherwise, as unfounded and calumnious, and threatening punishment against all who spread such accusations, rendering the provincial authorities responsible for the protection of foreigners within their jurisdiction and ordering the settlement of all pending cases in accordance with the requirements of justice.

On their side, the Chinese ministers pointed out that missionaries should be warned to be more careful, in future, in the selection of their converts and that they, the missionaries should not be allowed to protect their converts and interfere on their behalf, with the action of the Chinese authorities.

The foreign representatives present replied that it would be exceedingly difficult to invite the missionaries to greater care in

in the selection of their converts as, even in the service of the Chinese Government, bad characters were not infrequently found out only after a considerable number of years, but that, if the Tsungli Yamên would add to their note, in which they would inform the foreign representatives of the issue of the imperial edicts which had formed the subject of today's conference, what they had just stated, the foreign representatives would, in their answer, willingly repeat the declaration that the fact of a Chinaman adopting the Christian religion did not withdraw him from the Chinese jurisdiction, but, on their land, they must insist that, according to the treaties, nobody was molested or persecuted for following or professing the Christian religion.

Joint despatch from the representatives of France, the German Empire and Great Britain, with reference to the decree mentioned in the interview above.

The representatives of France, the German Empire and Great Britain have the honor to draw the attention of His Highness Prince Ching and Their Excellencies the ministers of the Tsungli Yamen, to the necessity of the imperial decree, or decrees, for which the Tsungli Yamên promised, at the conference held on the 25th inst., to memorialize the throne, being published by the Peking Gazette.

They also beg to point out to His Highness and Their Excellencies that, in order to avoid misunderstandings and a future reopening of the question, it would be very desirable that the Yamên

should

should communicate, informally, to them the draft of the memorial they intend to present to the throne, so as to allow them to point out any alteration which, in their opinion, would contribute to a satisfactory settlement of the question before them, the gravity of which they cannot but impress most seriously upon the members of the Yamên.

The representatives of France, the German Empire and Great Britain avail themselves etc. etc.

Peking May 27th 1891.